MONDAY
June 19, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
20 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

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INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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Vol.54 • No.144

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HT.No. 236049359

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SOJITRA DIPEN
HT.No. 231017001 (DLP)

RANK 65
D PANEENDRANADHA REDDY
HT.No. 236050298

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GUNDA SUSHANTH
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RANK 68
HARSH TAYA
HT.No. 237021178

RANK 69
KRISH GUPTA
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KUNCHAKURTHY VIVEK
HT.No. 236134093

RANK 81
N DHARMA TEJA REDDY
HT.No. 236050138

RANK 84
S VENKAT KOUNDINYA
HT.No. 236130679

RANK 87
MRUNAL SHRIKANT
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RANK 92
SAMOTA APURVA
HT.No. 232099210 (DLP)

RANK 97
N PRINCE BRANHAM REDDY
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NUMBER OF RANKS QUALIFIED
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BELOW 20 All India Open Category Ranks » 10 RANKS (50%)

BELOW 100 All India Open Category Ranks » 32

BELOW 1000 All India Open Category Ranks » 181

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BELOW 1000 All India Category Ranks Count » 699

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Dialogues that 'hurt feelings' to be revised

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Complicated nature of climate leadership

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Gita Press gets Gandhi Peace Prize for 2021

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What the U.S. should note as it plays host

Pluralism and diversity must be recovered

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BLUE TIGERS ROAR

Chhetri and Chhangte star in India's title win

SPORT » PAGE 15

NEARBY

10 injured as KIA shuttle bus hits pole

BENGALURU
A shuttle bus operating between the Terminal-1 (T1) and Terminal-2 (T2) of the Kempegowda International Airport collided with a pole on Sunday resulting in injuries to 10 people. » PAGE 2

Power struggle resurfaces in Congress

BENGALURU
The shadowboxing over power sharing within the Congress between Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar has resurfaced even as the BJP is trying to wade into troubled waters. » PAGE 6

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Indian medicines under lens in Sri Lanka over a series of adverse events

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Hard-hit: Sri Lanka's 'weak' regulatory system is said to be the 'main problem' behind the poor quality of medicines. REUTERS

Imported Indian drugs are at the centre of a medical storm in Sri Lanka following cases of complications and fatalities, reportedly after patients were administered medicines sourced from India.

On Friday, local media reported the death of a patient undergoing treatment at the Peradeniya Teaching Hospital, in Kandy district, after being given the Indian-manufactured anaesthetic Bupivacaine.

The news sparked concern among local people, especially since the incident came less than two months after a pregnant woman was reported dead at the hospital, after being given an Indian anaesthetic drug.

Following the April incident, the Health Ministry suspended the use of that drug.

Unregistered suppliers

Even before these incidents, Transparency International Sri Lanka had filed a fundamental rights petition in the Sri Lankan Supreme Court, challenging the decision of the Cabinet and health authorities to procure drugs from unregistered suppliers.

The petition further questioned the national drug regulator's role in providing a waiver of registration to allow for the swift import of essential drugs.

Gujarat-based Savorite Pharmaceuticals (Pvt) Ltd. and Chennai-based Kausikh Therapeutics were named as respondents.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Biren asks Mizoram CM to protect Meiteis; MLAs in New Delhi to meet PM

Mizoram has populations of both Meiteis and Kukis and now also offers refuge to 10,000 displaced Kukis from Manipur; Zoramthanga says people of Mizoram are empathetic to Meiteis

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Call for peace: Women participate in a human chain in Imphal in protest against the ethnic violence between Meitei and Kuki communitiesin Manipur. PTI

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh called Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga on Sunday, asking him to take measures to ensure the security of the Meitei community in the neighbouring State. Mizoram has a sizeable population of Meiteis and Kukis settled in the State, and 10,000 people from the Kuki community displaced in the violence in Manipur have found refuge there as well.

The call to ensure the security of Meiteis in Mizoram came as dozens of BJP legislators from the Meitei community in Manipur arrived in the national capital over the past couple of days to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Manipur Chief Minister is expected in Delhi during the week.

Protesting PM's silence

On Sunday, scores of people in Imphal West protested against Mr. Modi's monthly radio show *Mann ki Baat* and questioned his silence on the Manipur situation. Protesters broke radio transistors and shouted, "No *Mann ki Baat*, yes to *Manipur ki Baat*."

In a tweet, the Mizoram CM said that he had spoken to his counterpart in Manipur over the phone at half past noon on Sunday regarding the ongoing violence in Manipur. Mr. Zoramthanga said that Mr. Singh had asked for his help in resolving the issue, with a hope that henceforth there would be a "peaceful coexistence".

"Furthermore, the request is to take means and measures for the Mizoram Meitei to settle peacefully," he said. "I also apprised the Chief Minister of Manipur that we the people of Mizoram are empathetic towards the Meitei and that the government and the NGOs have taken measures for peace and security. Therefore, for the Meitei who are residing in Mizoram, they have nothing to fear as long as they are in Mizoram. We shall go on to promote safety and security for them," he said.

His tweet also said that the Mizoram government "bemoans the ongoing violence" and has taken certain steps and measures to abate it. "I further stated that we are supportive of the steps taken by the Govt. Of Manipur and the Central Govt," he added.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Bodies of three boys recovered from lake

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The bodies of three high school boys who are suspected to have drowned on the outskirts of the city in Amanikere were recovered on Saturday.

The deceased have been identified as Karthik, 15, from Kerekodi Road, Gruprasad, 16 and Dhanush, 10 from Shidlaghatta Road.

The police said the three, all students of Government High School, Vijayapura, Devanahalli, ventured out of the house after school for fishing and did not return. When the parents realised that the boys had not returned post evening, they started searching for them and approached the police.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 2

55,000 consumers sign up for Gruha Jyothi scheme amidst technical glitches on Seva Sindhu portal

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Gruha Jyothi banner outside the Rajarajeshwarinagar Bescom office in Bengaluru on Sunday. K. MURALI KUMAR

As the registration process for the much-awaited Gruha Jyothi scheme, under which eligible households will get free power up to 200 units, began on Sunday, a total of 55,000 consumers from across the State registered for it until 6 p.m. However, for many citizens, the first day of registration was slightly disappointing as the Seva Sindhu portal failed to open on mobiles and computers.

While the registration for the scheme was originally scheduled to begin on June 15, it was postponed to June 18 to fortify the Seva Sindhu portal to handle the number of applications which would be received. On Sunday afternoon, consumers went on to the Seva Sindhu portal only to realise that the page leading to the registration process was not opening.

The registration process was scheduled to begin at around 11 a.m. at Bangalore One, Karnataka One and Grama One centres and 3 p.m. onwards for the public as well as at Gram Panchayat and electricity offices. Although the portal could initially not be accessed even at the Karnataka One and Grama One centres, in the later hours of the afternoon, some consumers could finish the registration. This too was characterised by a few glitches, including a delay in getting OTPs.

Vijay Prabhu, a resident of Dongarkery in Mangaluru, along with his neighbour Ganesh Shet, had gone to a Mangaluru One centre. After giving Aadhaar Number and mobile number, Mr. Prabhu did not get OTP to authenticate the Aadhaar. He had to wait for about 15 minutes to get the OTP and then complete the registration process.

"These are usual glitches at the start of the scheme. I hope this scheme lasts for the next five years," said Mr. Prabhu.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 2

Ragi 'mudde'-'soppu saaru', 'kheer', bread-jam, and Mangaluru buns added to Indira Canteen menu

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

The Indira Canteen at Ganganagar. FILE PHOTO

Citizens will have two additional items on the menu for breakfast at Indira Canteens soon: two slices of bread and jam, and Mangaluru buns, along with the existing menu of idlis, pongal, 'khara bath', 'bisibele bath', and vegetable 'pulav'.

With the Congress, who launched the Indira Canteens with much fanfare, back in the saddle, the canteens are not only being revived and expanded but their menu is also being revamped. The city's civic body is all set to call for new tenders for providing food, and running the canteens at the zonal level next week.

For lunch and dinner, the civic body will introduce ragi 'mudde' and 'soppu saaru' as an option on the menu, which will be available every alternate day, while on other days, chapati-'sagu' or chapati with veg gravy will be available apart from the white rice and vegetable 'sambar' on the menu now. The civic body will also introduce a sweet - 'kheer' - only for lunch five days a week.

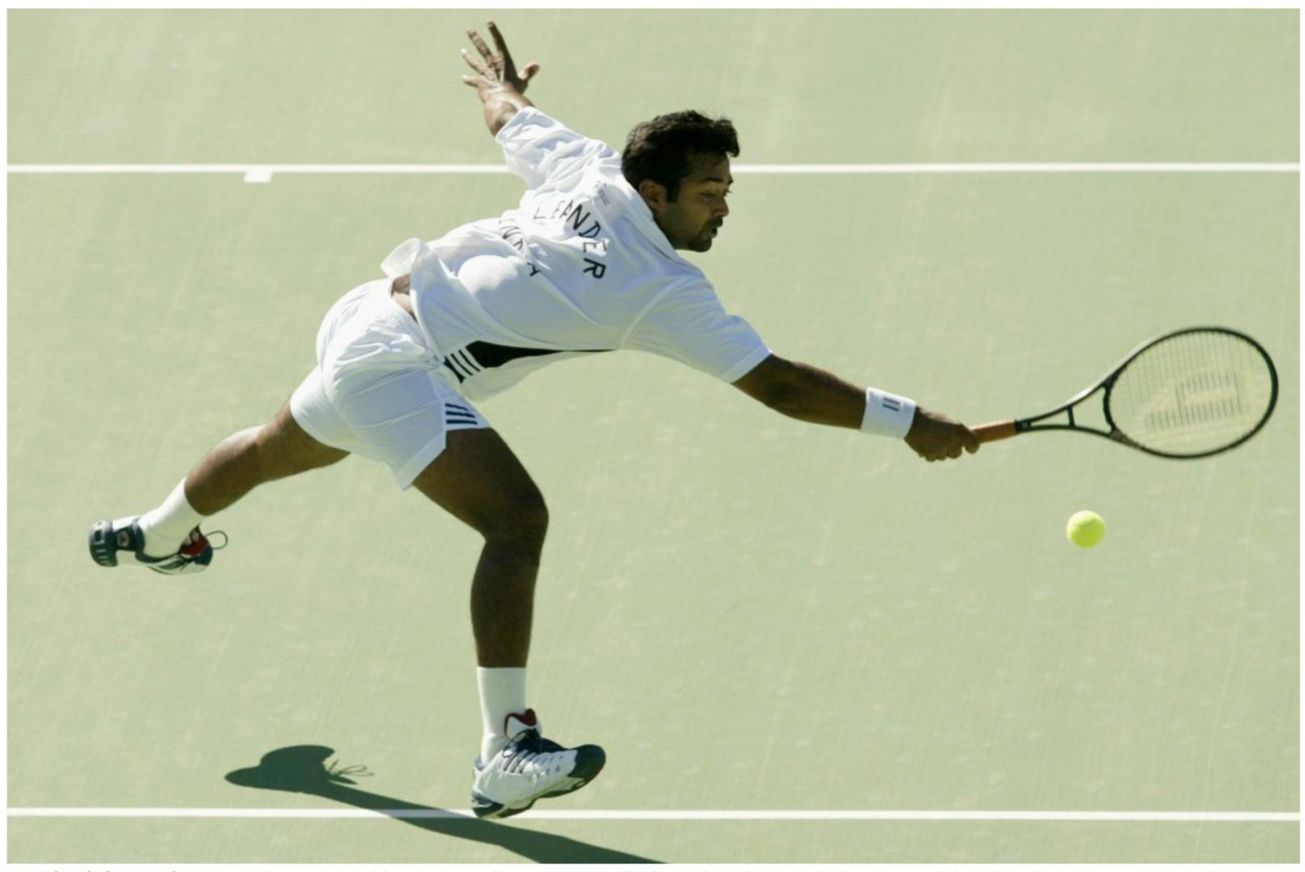
While a proposal to provide boiled eggs was discussed within the ruling party forums, no such proposal was made in the recent meeting chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on revamping Indira Canteens, sources said. "Providing boiled eggs would cost the exchequer dearly. No such proposal was discussed officially. Moreover, the concept of Indira Canteens is to provide subsistence food, and not luxurious food," a senior civic official said.

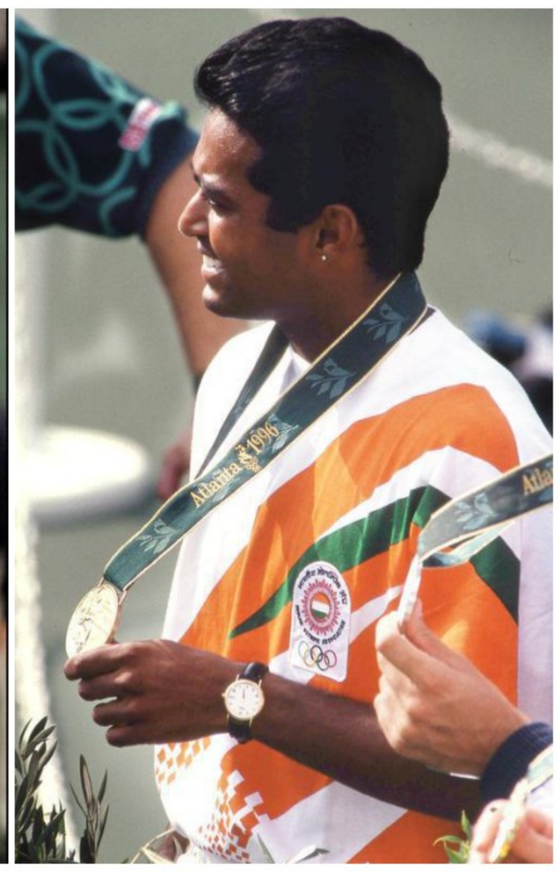
Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath had recently said that the cost of the meals for citizens would remain the same.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 2

Leander – Indian tennis' quintessential showman with a plethora of envious achievements

Within his pint-sized frame of 5'10" rested a genius tennis player who won 18 Grand Slam titles, 54 career doubles crowns, a record 45 Davis Cup doubles wins and an individual Olympic medal





Nothing is impossible: Leander was an athlete-par-excellence, giving it his best shot always. The bronze medal at the Atlanta Games was a glorious moment in a career spanning more than two-and-half decades. FILE PHOTOS

TENNIS

N. Sudarshan

For more than two-and-a-half decades of his playing career, Leander Paes resembled a quintessential showman. He basked in the spotlight, brought emotion and theatre to the court as he sprinted between lines, dived full length to put racquet to ball, chest-bumped his partners and high-fived fans.

However, unlike many a showman, Leander doesn't have an asterisk next to his name. His tale is not one of "wasted potential", a rather pejorative term used to describe the likes of Nick Kyrgios, who is a Major doubles champion and a Wimbledon singles finalist no less. Within Leander's pint-sized frame of 5'10" – small by modern-day tennis standards – rested a genius tennis player, winner of 18 Grand Slam titles (eight in doubles, 10 in mixed doubles), 54 career doubles titles, a record 45 Davis Cup doubles victories and an individual singles Olympic medal.

The Indian tennis legend turned 50 on Saturday, and until March 2020 when COVID-19 hit, he had his eyes set on an eighth Olympic appearance, in Tokyo, and had also branded the months leading into the showpiece event as "One Last Roar", with custom-made T-shirts and a video-camera in tow. In late 2021, he even made an entry into the political arena in Goa, but not much came of it. But he remains in the limelight, having never retired officially and keeping his political cards close to his chest. Like most showmen, he writes his own rules.

Leander's stock was largely built through his exploits in the mid to late 1990s, which continued well into the second decade of the millennium. It was a time when a newly liberalised India was having its first brush with the cut-throat professionalisation of sport and it was up to Leander, along with Sachin Tendulkar and Viswanathan Anand, to show that Indian sport could stand shoulder to shoulder with the rest of the world.

The bronze medal at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, where he beat Brazil's Fernando Meligeni from being a set down in the playoff, was a symbol of this, for he was the first individual medallist from India since K.D. Jadhav secured third place in wrestling at the 1952 Helsinki Games.

Unmatched zeal

He played Davis Cup for India with unmatched zeal, criss-crossing continents, adapting to varied conditions and time-zones. Back then, singles and doubles matches in the premier competition were best-of-five set affairs, and Leander would play both singles and doubles, which meant three energy-sapping matches in three days. Some of his most famous singles wins came against the French duo of Arnaud Boetsch and Henri Leconte in the quarterfinals in 1993, versus South African Wayne Ferreira in 1994 and Croat Goran Ivanisevic in 1995.

"We were playing France on clay and it was one of his best performances in the Davis Cup," Ramesh Krishnan, Leander's teammate in that 1993 tie, told Sportstar. "He won both his singles, which was fantastic. He was charged up and was able to rise to the occasion and play above himself consistently. It also suited his temperament – of one match on the main court with all the attention. He wanted the bigger occasion."

This temperament reflected in his style of tennis as well. In a format like doubles, where points are short, the presence of a big serve or a crunching forehand is an absolute must. Leander had neither. In his famous win over Pete Sampras at New Haven in 1998, he did hit an astonishing seven aces to the American's four, but through his career, his serve was a mere starting point in his journey towards the net, where he was a master.

His volleys were first-rate, with the ball refusing to rise and dying instantly as if it was caught in a cobweb. He could cover the net despite not having a big wingspan and could poach like no other. In the last facet, he was a bit like Mohammed Azharuddin on the cricket field, whose fielding technique was built on an economy of movement. Both men would be at the right place at the right time, with their anticipation standing out.

Bhupathi the right foil

In the tall and powerful Mahesh Bhupathi, Leander found the right foil for this game and together they created history, winning three Majors, including the French Open and Wimbledon double in 1999. In Davis Cup, they played 27 ties as a pair, out of which a whopping 25 ended in wins, placing them fourth in the all-time list.

It was in mixed doubles that Leander's court-craft found artistic expression. The glamorous format only exists at Grand Slam events and at competitions like the Olympics and the Asian Games. It's more hit-and-miss and every pair is more or less a scratch pair. But he won the Australian Open and Wimbledon with the iconic Martina Navratilova in 2003, when the latter was 46.

And with Martina Hingis, he won all four Majors in an 18-month span, including the last at the 2016 French Open. It capped a wonderful Slam-winning run for Leander which had started all the way back in 1999 when he tasted victory for the first time in Paris with Bhupathi.

"Lee was playing at a very high level for a really long time," Somdev Devvarman told Sportstar. "The electricity that he played with, the fact that he was playing singles, was top-100 in singles and obviously winning slams in doubles - those are the things that drew me to him as a young player. The energy that he came out with, the quick hands, the volleys, the speed, the fire and the fact that he got the crowd going."

For all the accomplishments, Leander's was not a spotless career. The selection squabbles ahead of quadrennial events like the Olympics and Asian Games, and his infamous run-ins with Bhupathi cast a negative light on Indian tennis. The most recent was during the 2017 Davis Cup contest against Uzbekistan in Bengaluru when Bhupathi, as captain, dropped Leander and the latter left after the first day of the tie.

Still the darling

But in the eyes of the public, he was and still is the darling, winning the perception battle almost always. Perhaps, this is because his is a charismatic and magnetic personality that can lift even the dourest of settings.

In those tears that rolled down his cheek when the national anthem was sung sealed his test of patriotism, those fantastic one-liners he conjured – "books are being closed, the library will soon shut," he said at his last Tata Open Maharashtra appearance in 2020 – made him a smash hit with the press.

From the beginning until the very end, he craved attention, but had the achievements to back that. One could be simultaneously repelled and mesmerised by Leander. A quintessential showman he indeed was.

Rapport hopes Global Chess League becomes a part of the sport's elite

Mayank Chaudhary

After playing an interesting cameo in Ding Liren's title-winning run against Ian Nepomniachtchi in the World Championships, Richard Rapport is gearing up for the inaugural edition of the Global Chess League (GCL).

Rapport, who switched his nationality from Hungary to Romania in 2022, was the 'second' for Ding at Astana earlier this year.

Different experience

In an exclusive interview with *The Hindu*, Rapport spoke about his experience with Ding. "My experience obviously is way more different than his because I don't play the games, I don't lose the games, I don't make the blunders, and I also don't make the winning moves. It was both rewarding and draining for me.

"Emotionally, even physically, I'm not sure if I would do it again, but I'm definitely very happy to be a part of the event. The fact that he (Ding) won the championship certainly helps as we finally accomplished the goal and completed the cycle for which we were fighting," he said.

As humble as it may sound, Rapport thinks he is given far too much credit for what Ding accomplished in Astana.

"I feel like I got too much credit for his win. He was the one who had to deal with the pressure and perform at his best under different circumstances. I was there, but so was his whole team who had his back," said the 2022 Candidates entrant.

Following his successful stint with the latest World champion, Rapport will now play for Ganges Grandmasters in the Global Chess League alongside five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand.

The GCL is a team-based tournament, organised by FIDE and Tech Mahindra, and will take place from June 21 to July 2 at the Dubai Chess and Culture Club.

"It's a very positive addition to the events I'm involved in. I hope it continues and becomes a consistent part of the chess elite. When it comes to top events, there are very few serious team competitions," said the current World No. 10.

One of a kind

The six-team league will have two woman players in each team and juniors too, making it a one-of-a-kind tournament.

"I appreciate that the best players are present and I like the structure of giving space to women. Most top events in which I participate either go for an average rating, organise special events for ladies, or simply leave them out entirely which is not fair," said Rapport.

In elite company: Rapport will play alongside five-time World champion Anand for Ganges Grandmasters in the GCL. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Besides Anand, Rapport will compete in the double round-robin tournament with World No. 17 Leinier Dominguez Perez, women's World No. 1 Hou Yifan, Bella Khotenashvili, and Andrey Esipenko.

Rapport, the FIDE Grand Prix 2022 second-leg winner, believes that a lot will depend on how the top board of his team plays out in the tournament.

Cordial terms

"I'm very happy with our team since I am on very cordial terms with almost all the players. It is a very well constructed team. We will have individual challenges as a few of the players are not as active as they used to be. A lot will depend on the temporal form, but in a good environment – which I feel the team will naturally bring with itself – it will be easier to find our form.

"When I look at our team, we have Vishy (Anand), who is the icon player at the top, but Yifan is also an icon to me. She is the highest-rated female player in history, a professor, but beyond that, a wonderful person. So, it's very nice for me to be surrounded by people I respect," he added.

Rapport was also impressed by how youngsters have taken over the chess world with their fearless mindset.

The top 10 juniors in the world currently possess an average rating of over 2700 in classical chess, demonstrating the strength of the future generation. Alireza Firouzja leads with a rating close to 2800.

"It's funny for me to talk because I have been part of this talent at some point and now I'm playing against them.

Ready for transition

"With the technology and improvements in the world where we are coming up with new engines, and new programmes, the transition is bound to happen as the generation ahead is well-equipped and certainly more dynamic in nature," he said.

Since 2017, India has produced over 30 new Grandmasters. Youngsters like Arjun Erigaisi, R. Praggnanandhaa, D. Gukesh and Nihal Sarin, among others, have already flourished and made their mark on the biggest stage.

"The new generation of chess talent are on the way to lead India to potential leaders in the sport.

Extremely popular

"Chess is extremely popular in India, and I believe it is on the verge of exploding. I really hope it just explodes more, so with all of this in mind, this is natural.

"People still find it difficult to make a living out of this sport where I come from, unlike India, where I feel there is some sense of respect for the sport. Chess has a perspective as a profession and that makes it inevitable that young talents keep popping up now and then," he said.

Whatever was said and done after the championship, Rapport did exhibit his superiority over Ding by beating him in the 12th round of the Tata Steel Masters 2023.

Rapport and Ding will be pitted against each other once again, this time in the upcoming Global Chess League.

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NEET 2023

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Sri Chaitanya
6th - 12th Class
720/720 MARKS
OPEN CATEGORY

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RANK 3 — BONIGALA ABHISHEK — H.T. NO. 236063043 (SC)

RANK 3 — VANGURI ESHWAR — H.T. NO. 236131521 (SC)

RANK 4 — RAGHAV GOYAL — H.T. NO. 237020329

RANK 4 — SUTHAR HARSHAL — H.T. NO. 231005060 (OBC-NCL) (DLP)

RANK 4 — UDTYAVATH SAI LIKHITH — H.T. NO. 236131195 (ST)

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RANK 5 — B R KUMAR REDDY — H.T. NO. 236049015 (EWS)

RANK 5 — K CHANDRASHEN NAYAK — H.T. NO. 236159219 (ST)

RANK 6 — N SREE VAMSHI MADHAV — H.T. NO. 236132927 (ST)

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RANK 7 — NENAVATH KALYAN — H.T. NO. 236130689 (ST)

RANK 8 — KANDADI TRILOK REDDY — H.T. NO. 236048004 (EWS)

RANK 9 — SUTHAR HARSH — H.T. NO. 232100028 (OBC-NCL) (DLP)

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RANK 104 — ADITI SINGH — HT.No. 231003230 (DLP)

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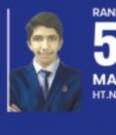
RANK 551* — PADMAVATI M KUDAL — HT.No. 231039026



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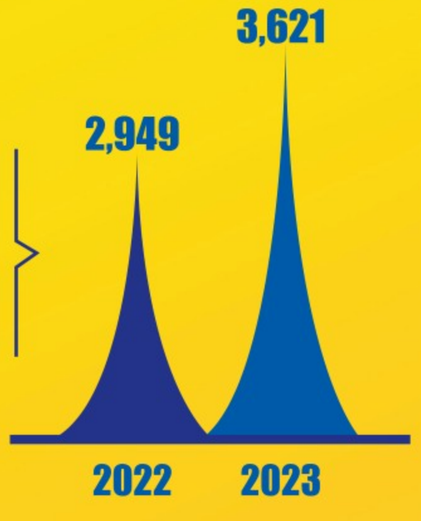

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J BG-BGE

10 injured as KIA shuttle bus hits pole

A shuttle bus operating between the Terminal-1 and Terminal-2 of Kempegowda International Airport collided with a pole in the early hours of Sunday, resulting in injuries to 10 people. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A shuttle bus operating between the Terminal-1 (T1) and Terminal-2 (T2) of the Kempegowda International Airport collided with a pole in the early hours of Sunday resulting in injuries to 10 people.

The incident occurred at around 5:15 a.m. when the bus with 17 passengers onboard was headed to T2.

"At approximately 5:15 a.m. on June 18, 2023, a shuttle bus operating between T1 and T2 of BLR Airport collided with a pole near the T2 Arrival exit road, resulting in injuries to 10 people. There were a total of 17 passengers (15 pax and 2 staff) who were onboard the bus. The injured were taken to a hospital for immediate medical attention," said a BIAL Spokesperson.

The injured were rushed to the Aster Airport Medical Centre which is located inside the airport premises where they were given first aid.

"Of the 10 injured four were given first aid after which they went to their respective homes while six of them were referred to the Aster Hospital in Hebbal to undergo further treatment," sources said.

Sources said that a two-year-three-month-old child was also onboard the bus along with her parents. While the child did not suffer any major injuries, the mother of the child had a cut on her chin while the father had a cut in the ear. The parents are undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Some of the passengers onboard the bus were transit passengers who were travelling in the shuttle bus between the two terminals to take a connecting flight.

The distance between T1 and T2 is approximately 600 metres, and complimentary airport shuttle bus services are being operated on regular frequency between the two terminals.

Applications invited

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, has invited applications for the Best Farmer / Farm women and Best Extension worker State-level, district-level and taluk-level awards.

According to a UAS-B release, the application forms can be obtained from the office of the Joint Directors of Agriculture of respective districts or Krishi Vigyan Kendras (Hadonahalli-Doddaballapur, Chandurayanahalli-Magadi, Kandali-Hassan, Konehalli-Tiptur, V.C. Farm-Mandya, Kurubur Farm-Chitamani and Haradanahalli-Chamarajanagar.

The applications can also be downloaded from the university website www.uasbangalore.edu.in. The last date for submitting applications is July 31, 2023. For details, contact the office of the Director of Extension, UAS, GKVK campus, Bengaluru or call 080-23330153.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, JUN. 19
RISE 05:54 SET 18:48
RISE 06:37 SET 20:00

TUESDAY, JUN. 20
RISE 05:55 SET 18:48
RISE 07:31 SET 20:49

WEDNESDAY, JUN. 21
RISE 05:55 SET 18:48
RISE 08:23 SET 21:35

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	27
Mysuru	34	21
Bengaluru	31	22

Bengaluru Today
32°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be little warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of rain and thundershower.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Night will be comfortable.Spell of moderate rain or thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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Tulasi Gowda interacts with students in Chikkamagaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Padma Shri awardee Tulasi Gowda interacted with students of Kuvempu Vidyaniketana School at Kadrimidri near Chikkamagaluru on Saturday.

Tulasi Gowda has been known for her afforestation activities in Uttara Kannada district.

The students enthusiastically participated in the interaction. Ms. Gowda responded to queries raised by students.

She appealed to students to conserve nature and plant saplings for the benefit of generations to come. K.C. Shankar, secretary of the school, and others were present. The school authorities felicitated Ms. Gowda on the occasion.

'24 properties sitting on rajakaluves at private layout in Munnekolalu'

BBMP says encroachments have been identified on a total of 571 survey numbers

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

As many as 24 different properties have been marked for storm-water drain encroachment at Spice Garden Layout at Munnekolalu in Mahadevapura zone by Revenue Department officials where Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) was stopped from carrying out a demolition drive.

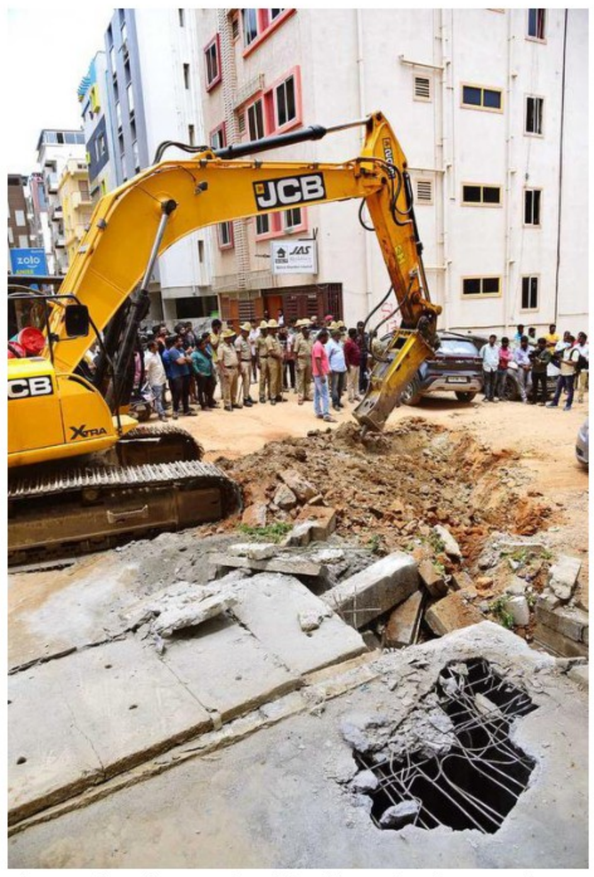
The residents had secured a stay order from the High Court (HC) which the BBMP learnt just when they landed at the private layout on Saturday morning. Tushar Giri Nath, Chief Commissioner, BBMP said the civic body was oblivious to the stay order secured by the residents. There are about 24 properties sitting on rajakaluves and the tahsildar had passed an order for razing structures.

Mr. Giri Nath said these structures come under single survey numbers and in many cases in the city, multiple properties come under a single survey number. There are a total of 571 survey numbers where encroachments have been identified.

There may be such cases in other survey numbers too which the legal team will look into and find a solution. The civic body is committed to razing the structures as flooding is a major concern in Mahadevpura, a tech corridor, officials said.

A BBMP official said Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar has given stern directions to the BBMP not to show any mercy on any encroachers, including real estate giants. .

The official further alleged that private layouts in Mahadevpura, including Rainbow Drive layout, are big encroachers of drains, but in all the cases BBMP could not demolish a single structure due to court stays.



The BBMP has taken up a demolition drive against the encroachment of the rajakaluve at Spice Garden Layout, near Marathahalli, in Mahadevapura zone, in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

CCB raids three bars and restaurants running live band

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a night-long operation since Saturday, officials of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) raided bars and restaurants in several parts of the city for allegedly running band live bands illegally, and forcing the women to dance in front of the customers. A total of nine accused have been arrested, while 210 customers were booked, and 87 women rescued .

Based on a tip-off, a team of officials raided Fuel Resto bar situated on Richmond Road and arrested three accused of running the illegal show. The accused brought the women from other states and forced them to dance in front of the customers to lure them to shower money on them, and buy more liquor, said the police. A total of 54 customers were found during the raid carried out on Saturday evening and they have been booked. A total of 19 girls have been rescued during the raid, and were taken to State home for women for counselling and rehabilitation.

Similar raids were carried out at Club-7 situated in Amarjyothi layout in Halasuru in the wee hours of Sunday, and three people running the show were arrested. The police found 118 customers, and 55 women forced to work as dance bar girls .The customers booked during the raids were men and women from different countries including Sudan, Yemen, and Thailand.

The police subjected some customers to medical examination based on their rude, and suspicious behaviour during the raid. The police suspect that they were under the influence of narcotics, and are awaiting medical reports for further investigations.

City student secures AIR 11 in JEE (Advanced) exam

Ujwal L. Shankar

Tanish S. Khurana

Vihaan Luhariwala

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Although a student from Bengaluru secured the first spot in the country last year, no student from the State figured in the top 10 ranks in the Joint Entrance Examination (Advanced) examination results which were announced on Sunday. Ujwal L. Shankar, who secured an All India Ranking (AIR) of 11, has emerged as the State topper for 2023.

Shankar is a student at Narayana Olympiad School in Sahakaranagar. While he secured a perfect score of 120 out of 120 in physics, he scored 111 in chemistry and 91 in mathematics.

"Physics was always my comfort subject, and organic chemistry was my strong suit. I was weak in mathematics and found it difficult to keep up with classes in the beginning, but later I picked up well. I mostly referred to the notes and modules given at my school, and always studied the syllabus in the same week it was covered in classes," Shankar said.

While both his parents are doctors, Shankar said that he was interested in pursuing Computer Science Engineering from IIT Bombay.

Vihaan Luhariwala (AIR 75) and Tanish S. Khurana (AIR 85), the other students from the city, also figured in the top 100 rankings. Luhariwala, a student of Agragami Vidyakendra, said that he would like to pursue Computer Science Engineering. While his first choice is IIT Bombay, he has also kept IIT Madras and IIT Delhi as his other options.

Tanish Khurana, who was the State topper in JEE (Mains) earlier this year, is a student of Sri Ram Global School. He said that he would like to join IIT Delhi for Computer Science Engineering.

Power bill: CM to talk to trade bodies that have called for strike

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stating that there will be no revision of power tariff, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said that officials had spoken to industrial trade bodies on the revision, and that he would speak to the bodies that have called for strike on June 22 to protest against power tariff revision.

"The officials, in a bid to convince the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FKCCI) office-bearers, have provided facts and figures. I hope they are convinced," he told reporters here on Sunday.

"There will be no reduction in power tariffs.The power bill is looking big because of the addition of two months arrears. From next month, the power bill will come down."

When his attention was drawn towards the strike announcemnet of the Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Chied Minister said he would speak to them.

From Page One

55,000 consumers sign up for Gruha Jyothi scheme

In Bengaluru, some Bangalore One centres were not even open as it was a Sunday and most relied on their phones and computers to access the Gruja Jyothi registration portal. Only by around 8 p.m. did the portal become accessible to some people. "I kept all my details and documents ready to register as my monthly average in the last year had been 190 units. However, I could not access the link provided by the government in its announcements as an error message about server unavailability kept popping up throughout the day. Moreover, the Seva Sindhu portal itself has a lot of lag issues and the response time is very bad," said Sriharsha M., a resident of Jayanagar.

Officials of the e-Governance Department acknowledged that many consumers were facing glitches. "It was easily rolled out at Karnataka One and Grama One centres, but due to a few data errors handed over to us by Escoms, the public could not access it. By Monday morning, it will be accessible to everyone," V. Ponnuraj, Secretary to Government, Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (e-Governance) told *The Hindu*.

The Energy Department said that there was a good response to the registration of the scheme on the first day. "The registration simultaneously started at Karnataka One, Grama One and Bengaluru One centers across the State. There was a good response from the consumers to register for the scheme. In spite of it being Sunday, officials of all Escoms were in the field, supervising the registration process and making it hasslefree," said a press release.

Ragi 'mudde'-'soppu saaru' on the menu

The costs are ₹5 for breakfast, and ₹10 each for lunch and dinner, totalling ₹25. "We have decided to increase the number of items available for dinner, and also the quantum of food to be served," he said. He added that to the ₹25 that would be paid by the citizens, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) would give an additional subsidy of ₹42, fixing the total cost of a three meals per person for the contractor at ₹67.

A total of 175 canteens that are running will be revamped after fixing all funding gaps. The water connection to several canteens was cut owing to non-payment of dues. Over 20 canteens that were shut down during the BJP regime will be revived. Apart from them, an additional 50 canteens will be built in the city, taking the total number to 250. The canteens were planned as one per ward in the city. The number of wards have now increased from 198 to 243. "We are yet to decide whether to build the new canteens also in the pre-built assembly model like other canteens. Some of these canteens will be built at places with high footfall like bus stations, railway stations, and government hospitals among others," said K.V. Trilok Chandra, Special Commissioner (Health), BBMP.

The civic body had struggled to find suitable space to build the canteens in several wards, forcing them to allot mobile canteens to nearly 30 wards, an experiment that seems to have failed compared to other canteens. The civic body is now trying to identify suitable locations to build these 50 new canteens.

"We will issue tenders to build these new canteens very shortly, once we identify locations, and secure those land parcels for the same," Mr. Chandra said.

Bodies of three boys recovered from lake

However, on Sunday morning, passers-by found the abandoned bicycles on the lakebed and the body of a boy floating and alerted the police.

The police rushed to the spot and with the help of Fire and Emergency Services personnel recovered the other two bodies. The police suspect that the trio ventured into the water for fishing and slipped due to the shallow water.

Residents vented their ire on the officials concerned for not taking precautionary measures after dredging the lake. The Doddaballapura police have taken up a case of unnatural death and are awaiting the post mortem report for investigations.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby inform to the general public that my client Dastagir A S/o late A Basha, is the successful bidder in respect of the schedule property herein in E-Auction held on 07/02/23 under SARFAESI ACT- and now my client is going to get register the sale deed in respect of schedule property from The Bangalore City Co-operative Bank Ltd', Chamarajpet, Bangalore. If anybody having any right title or interest over the schedule property, the same may be brought to my notice with in a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice and if no such information is conveyed to me, it will be presumed that no other person has right title or interest over the schedule property and my client will proceed to get register the sale deed in respect the schedule property

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.51, 3d Main, Panduranga Road, Bendre Nagar BBMP Ward No.55, Padmanabhanagar, presently Municipal No.13 (PID.No.55-164-13, Bangalore, and bounded on:-

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SHANKAR, Advocate
No.1795, 40th A Cross, 9th Block.
Jayanagar, Bangalore-560041.
Mob: 9686930700/ 9342858840

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Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

The remarkable endurance of the Y chromosome, 'master of maleness'

Many animal species have a genuine fear of losing the Y chromosome in the distant future. This has happened in some species that have naturally lost this chromosome. Such animals provide us with models to understand the process of sex-chromosome turnover and a means to repurpose another chromosome into a sex chromosome

Sridhar Sivasubbu
Vinod Scaria

Representative illustration of DNA. THAVIS 3D/UNSPLASH

The Y chromosome, often referred to as the "master of maleness", has long captivated scientists and historians alike. In humans, in addition to the 22 pairs of chromosomes in each, we have a pair of sex chromosomes called X and Y. Sex as a specification is determined by these sex chromosomes. They carry sex-determining genes. All biological males have X and Y chromosomes and all biological females have two X chromosomes. The 'sex-determining region Y' on the Y chromosome determines the biological male sex.

'Juvenile delinquent'

Estimated to have emerged around 200-300 million years ago in a common ancestor of all mammals, the Y chromosome has had a unique genetic journey, and embedded within its DNA lies a remarkable tale of evolution. Scientists published the complete genetic sequence of the Y chromosome in 2003. This sequence provided an outline of 23 million bases of the 60 million or so bases that together make up the Y chromosome. In total, the chromosome encoded for only 55 genes and accounted for around 2% of the genetic material inside a cell.

Many researchers jokingly refer to the Y chromosome as the "juvenile delinquent" among chromosomes thanks to its abundance of repetitive sequences, poor functional utility (with a small number of genes), reluctance to socialise (i.e. recombine with other chromosomes), and a high proclivity to degenerate over the course of evolution.

Indeed, because it has little potential to recombine, the diminutive Y chromosome has been passed from father to son, carrying the legacy of generations. Scientists have extensively studied it to understand human migration and evolution. It has also fuelled countless debates, unravelled the mysteries of paternity, revealed genetic diversity, and illuminated the intricate tapestry of our shared past.

Vital genes

In a landmark genetic study, published in March 2003 in the *American Journal of Human Genetics*, researchers reported that around 0.5% of all the men in the world have inherited a Y chromosome from the Mongol emperor Genghis Khan or one of his descendants. While the Y chromosome has been at the centre of many scientific and social controversies involving sex determination and gender discrimination, we would be better off not underestimating its influence on other aspects of health as well.

In fact, contrary to initial assumptions that the chromosome is degenerating and shrinking over time, and possibly has little functional role, researchers have discovered of late that the Y chromosome possesses genes that are vital to biological functions, including those linked to ageing and lifespan regulation (recent studies have shed light on an intriguing connection between the human Y chromosome and longevity).

In the animal kingdom (including mammals), scientists have noticed substantial differences in lifespan between the sexes: the females tend to live longer than the males.

This phenomenon has been attributed largely to the absence of a second Y chromosome in males, exposing the deleterious mutations in the X chromosome.

It is also well known that men lose the Y chromosome (LoY) with age and that this is associated with a higher frequency of cancers, Alzheimer's disease, and a shorter lifespan. This has been corroborated by studies on mice models that showed that LoY resulted in shorter lifespans and that older mice with LoY displayed significant memory deficiencies compared to younger mice.

However, a recent study in fruit flies from France's National Centre for Scientific Research, published in the journal *Nature Ecology and Evolution* on June 12, attributed the longevity to the phenotypic sex of the animal rather than the presence of a Y chromosome. Phenotypic sex refers to an individual's sex as deduced from their genitalia.

> In the animal kingdom (including mammals), scientists have noticed substantial differences in lifespan between the sexes: the females tend to live longer than the males

Losing the Y

Studies conducted by researchers at the University of Virginia School of Medicine, U.S., and Uppsala University, Sweden, together with others have shown that LoY in humans occurs with age and is associated with several debilitating medical conditions – a finding that has been validated in mice with LoY, resulting in weak heart muscles (cardiomyopathy), stretched or thickened heart tissue (fibrosis), and heart failure.

Scientists corroborated these observations with association studies in large human cohorts, such as the UK Biobank.Yet all is not in vain for the male members of the species: researchers have also found that the pathological effects observed on account of LoY in mice's hearts could be negated by transforming growth factor beta 1-neutralising antibodies, suggesting a potential treatment for this medical condition in future.

In another paper published in the same journal, on June 2, researchers performed an analysis of 29 primate sex chromosomes and suggested that in the last 80 million years, there has been a rapid evolution of the Y chromosome. This is exemplified by the fact that the human Y chromosome is about one-third as big as the X chromosome. So, many animal species, including humans, have a genuine fear of losing the Y chromosome in the distant future.

Relinquish the title

In fact, this has already happened in some species, such as rodents, which have naturally lost their Y chromosome. Such animals provide us with models to understand the process of sex-chromosome turnover and a means to repurpose another chromosome (i.e. one of the autosomes) into a sex chromosome.

Further, the evolutionary path leading to the appearance of modern humans provides clues as to what could be in store for the Y chromosome.

Genome sequences of the Neanderthals, an ancient relative of the modern human, harbour telltale signs of the replacement of the Y chromosome beginning from modern humans.

This suggests that such replacement is not new to the human lineage, and that it is quite possible that the Y chromosome may have to relinquish its coveted title of "master of maleness" to another chromosome in the times to come.

(Sridhar Sivasubbu and Vinod Scaria are scientists at the CSIR Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB) . All opinions expressed are personal. This article is part of a fortnightly column exploring contemporary concepts and issues in genetics.)

THEGIST

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BIG SHOT

A field in tatters after a flock of Barnacle geese passed through in Parikkala, Finland. With a cacophony of honks resembling the sound of a hailstorm, tens of thousands of hungry geese blanket a lush green field in Finland and eat through it. "There's probably around 20 to 30 hectares behind me, it is easily eaten in a day," farmer Kari Pekonen said. In Finland's eastern Karelia region, home to boreal forests and wetlands, climate change is pushing local farmers into conflict with wildlife. AFP

WHAT IS IT?

Clinical trials

The development of new medicines and medical practices is the forefront of medical research, with researchers endeavouring to find the best thing or way to manage or treat various conditions and diseases. Clinical trials are at the core of this process, especially when humans are the designated recipients of such innovation. These trials ensure that any medicine, surgical method, or, more broadly, an intervention is safe, well-tolerated, and efficacious.

Simply speaking, in a clinical trial, investigators enrol participants who meet certain qualifying criteria, then administer the intervention being tested, and finally measure the outcomes – all according to a predetermined plan.

Trials can test drugs, medical devices, and even procedures. They may compare a course of treatment to existing regimens or a placebo; they may be blinded or double-blinded; in fact, there are several types of clinical trials depending on the investigators' needs. Ultimately, a trial's results should help investigators determine the safety and efficacy of the intervention to a reasonably high degree of confidence.

Clinical trials also have phases. Vaccines developed against SARS-CoV-2 had to go through four. (Because vaccines are given to healthy people, they need to be tested more than drugs that are given to people who are ill.) Each phase is based on the trial's objective, number of participants, and some other characteristics.

Scientist in laboratory. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

In India, the Indian Council of Medical Research maintains an online public-record system called the Clinical Trials Registry-India. All clinical trials in India are required to register themselves here.

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

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VET. SCIENCE

VISHAL
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VET. SCIENCE

SHIVSHANKER
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VET. SCIENCE

SHIVAKUMAR
703RD RANK
VET. SCIENCE

DINESH
712TH RANK
ENGINEERING

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Free bus travel for women in Karnataka: How does Shakti scheme work?

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah says in India women's participation in workforce is shrinking, and promoting free bus travel will empower them

EXPLAINER

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The Shakti free travel scheme is applicable within Karnataka for women who are domicile of the State.

The Story so far

On June 11, the newly-elected Congress government in Karnataka launched the first among five poll guarantees – Shakti scheme. In this scheme, women can travel for free in non-premium services of State-run buses across Karnataka.

The main purpose of this scheme is said to be to increase the work participation rate of women, and to promote public transportation in Karnataka.

Genesis of scheme

The Congress announced the scheme in its manifesto for the Assembly elections, as part of five guarantees.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said it would benefit 50% of the population.

"The Shakti scheme has brought relief to women of the State who are in distress due to price hike and inflation," he had said.

While launching the scheme, he said that in India, women's participation in the workforce is shrinking, and promoting free bus travel scheme would empower more women to join the workforce.

Contours of scheme

Under this scheme, women and transgender people can travel free in non-premium services of State-run bus services across Karnataka.

The free travel scheme is restricted within the State to women who are domicile of Karnataka.

They will be able to travel in general and express bus services operated by State-run RTCs.

The government will issue the 'Shakti Smart Card' after receiving applications from women, including students, through the Seva Sindhu portal.

A conductor issuing a 'zero ticket' to a passenger on a bus at the Kempe Gowda station in Bengaluru on June 11, the day the Shakti scheme was rolled out in Karnataka. K. MURALI KUMAR

Until then, it has asked RTCs to accept any identity card issued by the Central or State government that carries the photograph and address of the beneficiary, to issue a 'zero ticket' (free ticket).

The government has directed officials to complete the issuance of smart cards to all beneficiaries within three months.

The bus services that will not be covered by the Shakti scheme are Rajahamsa, non-AC sleeper, Vajra, Vayu Vajra, Airavatha, Airavatha Club Class, Airavatha Gold Class, Ambaari, Ambaari Dream Class, Ambaari Utsav, Fly Bus, EV Power Class.

The government has reserved 50% of the seats for men in the services in which women are eligible to avail free travel, except Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) services.

How many will benefit

The scheme is expected to benefit 41.81 lakh women (including 11.58 lakh passholders), according to the KSRTC. On June 12, the first weekday it became operational, 41.34 lakh women travelled, entailing a cost of ₹8.84 crore to the exchequer.

The next day, over 51.52 lakh women travelled, with a ticket value of ₹10.82 crore. The cumulative cost for three days (June 11 to 13) was ₹21.05 crore. On all three days, Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation recorded the highest women ridership.

Number of buses

At present, the four RTCs operate 23,989 buses in the State with an average run of 65.02 lakh kilometres per day.

Following public demand to procure more buses to successfully implement the scheme, which may make more people use buses, State-run Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation, the BMTC, the NWKRTC, and the KKRTC plan to procure 1,894 new buses this year.

Reimbursement of cost

The government has decided to reimburse the cost of free travel to the corporations based on the zero ticket, or data from Shakti smart cards. The government routinely reimburses the subsidy provided for bus passes, apart from special grants and financial assistance. The government has reimbursed ₹3,606.52 crore to the four corporations from April 2022 to March 2023.

Private bus operators

Private bus operators have been affected by the Shakti scheme, especially in Malnad, coastal and old Mysuru region districts where they have been dominating the public transport sector in rural areas.

Private buses operate on several busy routes, including Shivamogga-Chitradurga, Shivamogga-Davangere, Shivamogga-Sagar, and Shivamogga-Chikkamagaluru, where they compete with services of the KSRTC.

Rangappa R., president of Private Bus Owners' Association in Shivamogga, said, "We will suffer huge losses on these routes once the free bus facility comes into effect. Why will women passengers travel in our buses when travelling by KSRTC is free of charge?"

In Dakshina Kannada district, more than 400 buses are run by private operators, and 68 buses are operated in rural areas on contract carriage basis. Dakshina Kannada District City Bus Owners' Association is planning to submit a memorandum to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah requesting relief in the form of diesel subsidy.

Activists' views

Activists argue that the rule to get a smart card to avail the free bus scheme is a huge entry barrier for women.

Vinay K. Sreenivasa, member of Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike (BBPV), said, "The scheme is radical, and has transformatory potential. But, guidelines say all women bus users will need to apply on Seva Sindhu portal for a smart card. This is a huge entry barrier for women. It's not needed and is unacceptable.

This scheme is supposed to be especially for those who cannot afford to travel by bus, and those who face restrictions at home. It's not easy for a single woman, from a BPL household, in a village, to apply on Seva Sindhu portal. Also, can the government issue up to 3 crore cards in three months?"

Citing a similar scheme in Delhi, Mr. Sreenivasa said, "In Delhi, they track numbers by issuing a ticket of a different colour. Why can't we do that? Why demand ID proof or smart card, and why impose restrictions of domicile?"

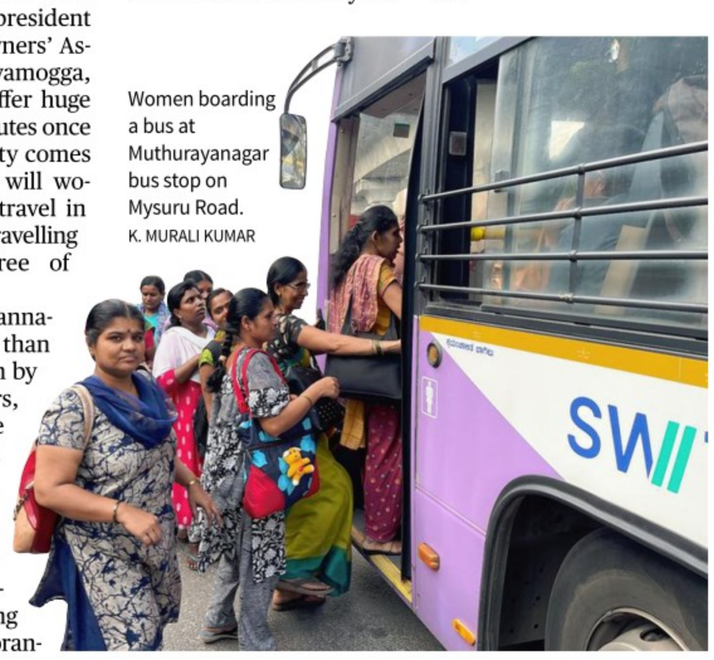
Fare-free transport

The Fare-Free Public Transport (FFPT) has been adopted in many countries and by various States in India. Australia and certain pockets of the U.S., among others, experimented with the concept for many years.

In India, many States have rolled out the measure partially to certain sections of the population, such as senior citizens, disabled persons, women, transgender people, minors, people working in public service sectors, and for journalists.

In 2021, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced free travel for women on basic-fare government buses. In Delhi, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal implemented free bus services for women in Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) buses.

In Punjab, women can travel free of cost in all government-owned buses, including Punjab Roadways Transport Corporation, Punjab Roadways Buses, and city bus services.



Women boarding a bus at Muthurayanagar bus stop on Mysuru Road. K. MURALI KUMAR

Alzheimer's: IISc designs probe that can sense enzyme

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Indian Institute of Science (IISc) researchers have designed a small molecular fluorogenic probe that can sense a specific enzyme linked to the progression of Alzheimer's disease.

Such a probe can easily be fabricated into a strip-based kit that may enable on-site diagnosis.

Alzheimer's disease, a neurodegenerative disorder, results in memory loss and compromises cognitive abilities in many people beyond the age of 60.

Currently used techniques to detect manifestations of the disease (MRI, PET, and CT scans) are complex, expensive, and often produce inconclusive results, according to the researchers.

The molecular fluorogenic probe is designed by Debasis Das, assistant professor in the Department of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry at IISc., and Jagpreet Sidhu, a C.V. Raman postdoctoral fellow in the department.

"Our goal was to find a reliable, cost-effective solution. Fluorogenic probes are not fluorescent by themselves, but upon reaction with a target enzyme, they become fluorescent.

Our target enzyme is Acetylcholinesterase (AChE)," said Mr Das.

Biomarker

Studies have shown that in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease, AChE levels become imbalanced, thus making it a potential biomarker for the disease.

Brain cells, or neurons, secrete neurotransmitters – signalling molecules that instruct other cells to perform certain functions. Acetylcholine (ACh) is one such neurotransmitter. Its levels in our nervous system are tightly controlled by enzymes like AChE, which breaks it down into two parts – acetic acid and choline.

Current approaches determine AChE levels indirectly by measuring the levels of choline. "They also often give confounding results because AChE has sister enzymes, such as butyrylcholinesterase and cholinesterase, that work on similar substrates, including ACh," said Mr Das adding that they now have a proof-of-concept and a lead.

Why traffic is no longer an issue

While the rest of us work and stretch our money as far as it will go, our politicians stretch the work to see how far the money will go

ABOUT 500 WORDS

Suresh Menon

Traffic congestion on the Hebbal flyover on Ballari Road. K. MURALI KUMAR

The traffic problem in our city is so bad that by an unspoken agreement, the citizens have decided not to speak about it. When you are late for an appointment, it is no longer acceptable to say, "Well, the traffic, you know ..."

Everyone knows, so why bring it up? Instead, we say something like, "Our clothes weren't back from the laundry" or "We were busy watching a tree grow."

We hate to make our politicians feel bad.

We also hope that the less we talk about the traffic problems, the faster they will disappear. It is a legacy from childhood when we believed that the best way to make something happen was not to talk about it.

There is a school of thought which believes we should follow the Italian model and allow vehicles on the footpath.

But the supporters of this school had to shut up when it was pointed out that such is already the case. 'Footpath' or 'sidewalk' (for those who had their education in America) is, like the woolly mammoth, entirely extinct, remembered only by those who have forgotten everything else.

Carpooling, where people going in the same direction hop into the same car to save on time, fuel and amount spent on road repairs, worked for a bit till some of us concluded that we needed a law preventing eleven people from travelling in a single car.

I exaggerate, but have you commuted to work in a car bearing six, and started your day at the office smelling of other people's sweat?

My idea is that no one should be allowed to leave home without first ensuring that someone who had been out had returned.

That way the number of people on the road remains a constant, a number that can be worked out in advance. Computers will let us know who has come back in and who is head of the queue to go out.

But people might complain they had to stay at home for 18 months because their computer, which had a problem could not be fixed as no repairmen had got their turn yet. So perhaps not such a good idea after all.

There has been some loose talk of public transport, buses and trains and the like, but it hasn't got anywhere.

Laying roads and tracks would take up too much time, and schoolchildren now would become grandfathers and grandmothers before that happened.

Governments seem to have a horror of finishing projects on time.

While the rest of us work and stretch our money as far as it will go, our politicians stretch the work to see how far the money will go.

"Everything is as it should be," said a friend quoting a philosopher who was either Greek or French, he didn't know which.

And that's where the matter rests now, with the citizens convinced that everything is as it should be, and that all traffic problems are maya, illusion.

Who said philosophers were useless in practical life?

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 19, 1973

Minister's Remarks Not Govt.'s Policy, says Urs

BANGALORE, June 18: The Chief Minister, Mr. D. Devaraj Urs, categorically stated in the Legislative Council to-day that the Government was secular and the observations on Hindu religion, attributed to the Municipal Administration Minister, Mr. Basavalingappa, did not reflect the principle or the policy of the Government.

Mr. Urs remarked that Mr. Basavalingappa had said something perhaps impulsively. (Mr. Urs used the Kannada words "*baayi chapalakkagi*"). If the devout were to lose their faith because of what Mr. Basavalingappa said such faith had no foundation. If Basavalingappa wanted to be an atheist let him be one, Mr. Urs said.

The Chief Minister's clarification came when some Opposition members took exception to the reported speech of Mr. Basavalingappa yesterday, attacking Hindu dharma, at a function to celebrate his 50th birthday.

Bangalore Bus Routes to be Restructured

BANGALORE, June 18: The Transport Minister, Mr. Aziz Sait, told the Mysore Legislative Council to-day that restructuring of the routes of the Bangalore City Transport system had been taken up to improve the services.

The Minister, who was replying to a question from Mr. V.S. Krishna Iyer (Cong O), said the BTS was now operating 333 buses on 159 routes. Steps had been taken to increase the frequency on some routes. About 40 new buses, five double-decker buses, and 37 reconditioned ones would be added to the fleet shortly.

EDUCATIONPLUS

Cheat sheets for your mind

Collect, curate and capitalise on mental models to unbox the potential in learning

Salil Sahadevan

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

You used Google Maps to navigate your way around the town last week. On another occasion, may be, you sketched something on a piece of paper to explain a concept to a friend. These are mental models in action. Just like maps and diagrams organise information visually, mental models do so in your mind. They are simplified representations of how things work.

Unconsciously, we rely on mental models even when choosing what to wear each morning. These cognitive shortcuts significantly shape our daily decision-making. Just imagine how difficult it would be to learn the positions of the sun and other planets without a model of the Solar System. Mental models serve as frameworks that enhance understanding, facilitate comprehension and enable us to grasp new concepts by integrating them with existing knowledge. Evolving from experiences, observations, and learning, mental models come in various forms like diagrams, analogies, or step-by-step methods.

The works of Edward de Bono, Daniel Kahneman, and recently the tweet streams by Naval Ravikant all highlight the usefulness of mental models in life. Despite their practical value in student lives, mental models are often misconceived as purely academic theories, leading to their underutilisation.

Break from biases

As humans, we fall prey to cognitive biases, but society wants us to think systematically. Mental models help us approach situations systematically, be it by forming habits or framing a research problem. Even clashes between individuals or groups are, in effect, the differences between the mental models held by them.

The classic *Metaphors We Live By* (Lakoff and Johnson) shows how the metaphors we use in our daily language, a part of our mental models, shape our thinking. By choosing the right metaphor, like viewing debates as dances instead of war, we can improve communication and collaboration. Broadening our understanding of mental models allows for considering alternative perspectives in communicating and problem-solving.

Education encompasses numerous thinking fallacies and biases. Consider this: If a few students perform poorly and the teacher generalises that the entire class lacks understanding, he is falling for the hasty generalisation fallacy: a cognitive bias. Confirmation bias compounds the issue, as the teacher seeks information that confirms his belief, disregarding contradictory evidence. To avoid such flawed thinking by recognising biases is crucial in education, where knowledge of mental models will help.

The quality of our thinking and learning depends on the models we possess. The more models we have, the broader our arsenal becomes. Immersing ourselves in diverse mental models from Psychology, business, economics, and beyond, and applying them across different contexts is enriching. Note that mental models are not meant to dictate our thinking. Instead, they enable us to think differently and effectively without falling for biases. For instance, having the wrong mental model about learning Maths will make the subject difficult to grasp. Discern which mental models serve us best among the many available. For example, the learning cycle aids learners and teachers in exploring, acquiring, and applying new knowledge. Note-taking methods like Cornell serve as mental models for cues, summarization, and recalling key points.

Concept collectors

Exploring mental models as a hobby unlocks boundless possibilities for enriching all aspects of life. To use mental models effectively, gather a wide range of them. Mental models transcend disciplines, much like 'thought experiments in philosophy and physics. Just as 'leverage' is a mental model in physics as well as investments, 'opportunity costs' from economics have applications in all areas of life. Countless mental models exist across various domains of knowledge for our use. Books like Rolf Dobelli's *The Art of Thinking Clearly*, *Super Thinking* by Weinberg and McCann and Shane Parrish's *The Great Mental Models* are excellent starting points.

Every culture has its own mental models, a reservoir of accumulated wisdom, of many scholars and thinkers who walked before us. The Panchatantra exemplifies diverse mental models through fables. Using different forms of mental models is the clearest way to change the way we see the world. When we know many mental models, we come out of living the story of blind men and the elephant.

Views expressed in this article are personal

The writer is Deputy Secretary, University Grants Commission

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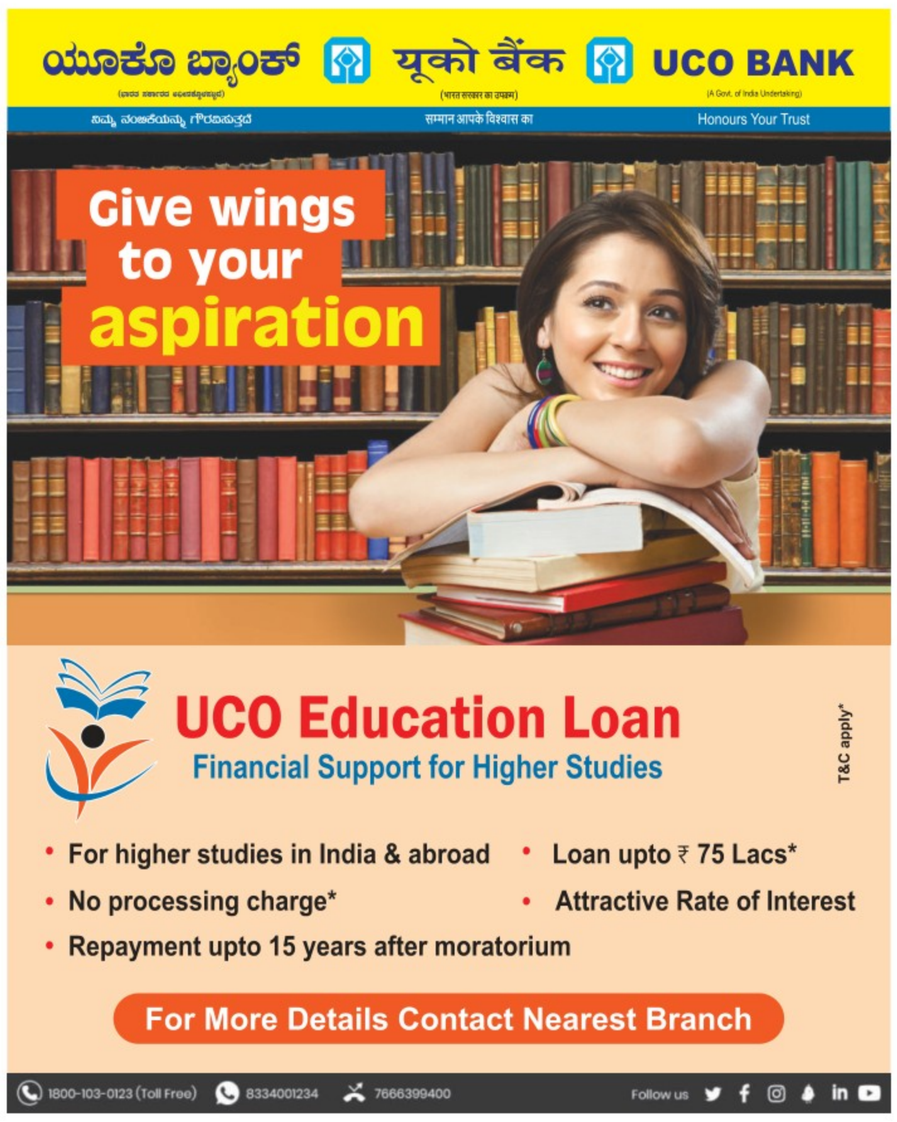

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An exhibition where code is used to create art

Art of Code, a month-long exhibition, at SOCIAL New BEL Road, Bengaluru, in collaboration with Tezos India, showcases a collection of digital art created using creative coding.

Preeti Zachariah

The array of mandalas on the screen refuses to stay still, fusing together and breaking away from each other, into new ones of different colours. A visitor standing in front of this digital artwork, watching a dizzying range of permutations and combinations of these colours emerge, may assume that the possibilities are endless.

And it turns out, that they may not be wrong. "Nothing gets repeated," says its creator, Mathura Govindarajan of her infinite range of mandalas, admitting that she is obsessed with this geometric symbol representing the universe in its highest form. "I find mandalas meditative," says Govindarajan, whose artwork, titled *Kalie-codescope*, has been coded using p5js, a JavaScript library for creative coding,

Govindarajan, the founder of the Bengaluru-based Paper Crane Lab, a nonprofit focused on making STEM education more accessible, is one of the 12 artists who are participating in *Art of Code*, a month-long exhibition, at SOCIAL New BEL Road, Bengaluru, in collaboration with Tezos India, showcasing a collection of digital art created using creative coding. The exhibition, which will be on display here till June 27, is an amalgamation of art and technology that may seem puzzlingly obtuse for a layperson (this reporter, included) but offers an interesting viewing experience, nevertheless.

Take Karthik Dondeti's *Rock-face*, an inter-locking web of filaments, that "were loosely inspired by the terrain you see along a rock face," says the artist whose background in architecture came into play while creating this digital artwork, which has also been coded using p5js and written for fxhash, an open platform for creating and collecting unique generative art NFTs on the Tezos blockchain. Or 15-year-old Laya Mathikshara's *See the Sea*, a blue logarithmic spiral that evokes both the idea of a churning ocean and a shell lying on a beach.

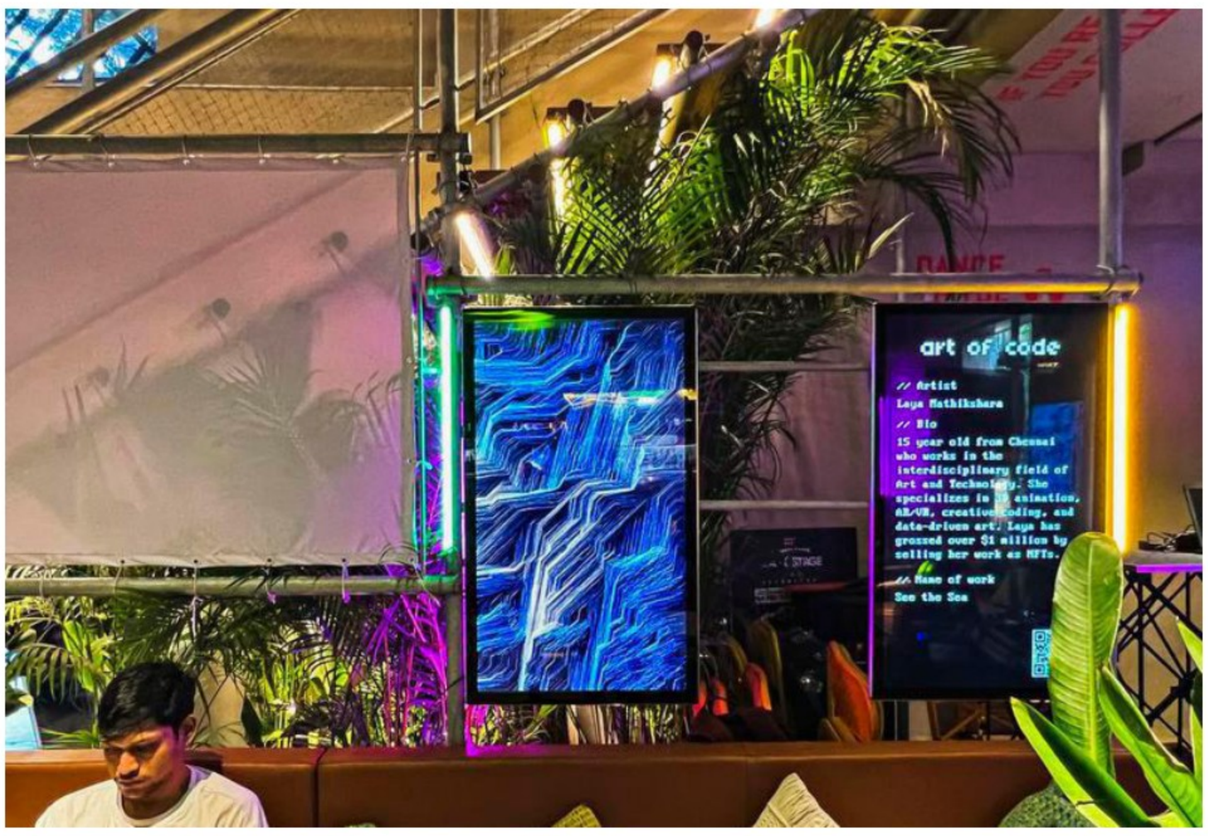
"We are focusing on artists of Indian origin who use code to express themselves," says Varun Desai, head of Tezos India Art and Culture (TIAC), adding that the exhibition is a hybrid curation with some digital artists on the blockchain and a few not on it. "It was curated amongst coders who were using the blockchain but also a few that weren't. We did not want to leave them out of the narrative just because they were not yet on the blockchain," he says, adding that the artists who are on the blockchain have their projects linked to NFTs via the QR code at SOCIAL.

"All sales of those works and revenue goes directly from the collector to the artist," he says, pointing out that neither SOCIAL nor Tezos India receives any commission for these sales. "This is different from how traditional shows are done where 30-50% of the sales go to the galleries."

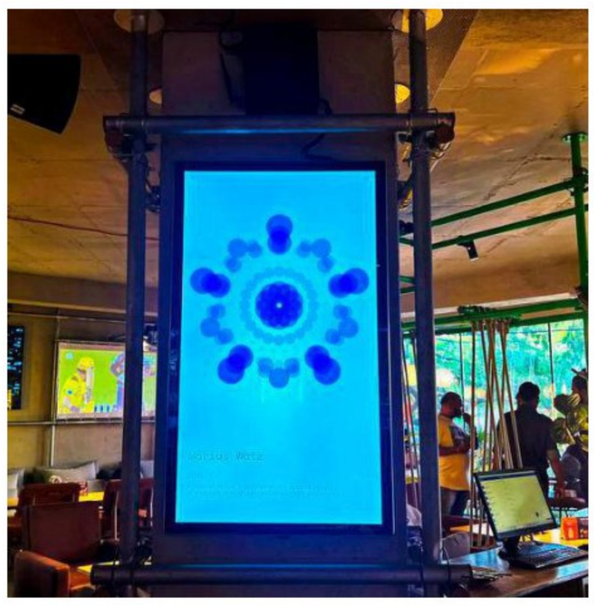
Offering a brief background into generative art, he says that the practice started in the 1950s when people began using mechanical computers to do drawings. "Over time it got more conceptual," he says, adding that just like how a traditional artist using paint or a digital artist uses specific drawing software, a generative artist uses lines of code to create art. "There are few people doing it, and they all have a unique take," he says, adding that they chose to have this exhibition at SOCIAL, instead of a traditional art space, because, "We wanted to make this art form accessible to everyone."

Art of Code is the 3rd art exhibition held at SOCIAL's physical gallery for NFT art, part of an ongoing initiative to introduce people to this relatively new art form. "Our first SOCIAL outlet on Church Street (started in 2014) was an artled outlet," points out Chirag Punjabi, Head, Business Strategy and New Initiatives, Impresario Handmade Restaurants, which owns and operates a number of cafes and restaurants, including SOCIAL. This, he adds, enabled people to come and appreciate art.

And with the analogue world transmogrifying into a digital one, art has been evolving too. "We just want it to be a space where people can get introduced to and explore this art," says Punjabi. And yes, "if they feel the need to purchase, they are more than welcome to do it."


art of code
// Artist
Laya Mathikshara
// Bio
15 year old from Chennai who works in the interdisciplinary field of Art and Technology. She specializes in 3D animation, AR/VR, creative coding, and data-driven art. Laya has grossed over $1 million by selling her work as NFTs.
// Name of work
See the Sea

Possibilities are endless A dizzying range of permutations and combinations. Special arrangement



Physics funhouse

Meet Ankit Rathore, who is making physics fun with his apartment laboratory

Praveen Sudevan

Ankit Rathore has a four-member audience at his apartment in Bellandur, Bengaluru. The audience, all under 12, lean on the table in front of them, rapt with attention. After sprinkling the black iron dust on two magnets, Ankit brings the opposite poles close to each other. The filings try to latch on to each other. They spread like the petals of a fully bloomed flower when Ankit brings the like poles of the magnets closer. It is magnetism and for the children it seems like magic.

"Science is not magic. It is supposed to feel that way, right?" asks Ankit. "It should evoke a sense of wonder. . Sadly, our schools don't teach science in this manner. It is all about memorising formulas and remembering laws."

This unstimulating system of rote learning is what Ankit tries to change with children. As a first step, he converted one of his bedrooms in his apartment into a physics laboratory, where the magnet magic unfolded.

Physics was not Ankit's first love. Despite having a mechanical engineering degree from IIT Bombay, Ankit wanted to pursue music. Hailing from a middle-class family in Ujjain, he did not have the financial backing or the contacts to get a breakthrough. He needed a day job to survive in Mumbai. A friend suggested teaching IIT-JEE aspirants. So, he joined as an instructor at a coaching centre.

"That's when I realised I had a thing for teaching. It came naturally to me. Though I did not give up on music, I enjoyed what I was doing."

From 2015 to 2020, he taught JEE aspirants. Ankit also wanted to do something more than merely help them get the requisite marks and clear the exam. He wanted them to understand what they were learning theoretically.

In 2020, when the pandemic forced him to return to Ujjain, he planned to start a YouTube channel. "The idea was to show them what they were learning."

So, he purchased equipment including a Galvanometer, Linear Air Track, and Wimhurst Machine worth a few lakhs. Apart from the money, he also invested many hours of his time making the videos for the channel. Unfortunately, it did not take off.

So, a year later, he moved to Bengaluru because he had a few friends who could help him. For a while, he took private tuition for JEE aspirants. A few months later, Ankit realised he had been fishing in the wrong pond all along. "I felt that I should start with school children if I want to change the way science is taught in this country. The difference I see with the young children (compared to the JEE aspirants) is they do not care about being wrong. So, it's more like you are doing science *with* them rather than imparting your knowledge *to* them."

The result of that thought was the conversion of one of Ankit's bedrooms into a physics laboratory.

Last September, he invited a few youngsters and their parents from his apartment for a free session on inertia. Soon, word spread and parents, enrolled their children. Now, he teaches 50 young people aged between seven and 15, split into seven batches.

Unlike a regular tuition centre, where students seldom get individual attention, Ankit limits his sessions to a maximum of four so all can participate. "If you fall in love with something, you will find ways to learn that. My job is to make them love physics. To do that, I need to interact with them individually."

Ankit has also started online sessions, where he teaches up to 15 students. From struggling to make ends meet as an aspiring musician, he finally feels settled financially in doing what he loves: teaching with a touch of creativity.

Evoking a sense of wonder: Ankit Rathore at his physics lab.
RAVICHANDRAN N

Vishal Raj: 'I want our present to know our past'

The award winning director's latest film, Kanakana Hejje, is about the saint and writer, Kanakadasa, his life and works

Shilpa Anandraj

The Kannada movie, *Kanaka Marga*, is based on a book *Kanakana Hejje* by Horpete Malleshappa. The book covers the life and works of one of the most prominent saints of Karnataka.

Vishal has written the screenplay and directed the film, which is produced by Kempegowda Patil and features actor Suchendra Prasad with child actors including Skanda, Girsh Jatthi, Vishwa, baby Sanvi and others. DOP is by Pramod Bharathiya.

Vishal has written and directed documentaries, television serials *(Baduku, Namma Samsaara, Samvedane)* and advertisements. Ever since he forayed into the world of cinema, he is known for making historical films. His films include *Minchi, Ingale Maarga, Savithri Bai Phule, July 22nd 1947* (based on the Indian flag), *Dantha Purana and Dandi*. Most of them have won the Karnataka State Award.

Man with a mission Director Vishal Raj during the shoot and (Left) the poster of the film
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Kanaka Maarga he says, as the title suggests is about Kanakadasa, his life and works. "I happened to visit the great saint's birthplace near Haveri and someone asked us why we could not do something about the forgotten place and his works through cinema. I was even given the book and started reading it. I felt it would be apt to make it into a film."

Not all people are aware of our historical figures and their works today, the director said. "Textbooks just about graze the surface of such topics. That is when I felt I should use films and my reach to let the present know about our past heritage, people, freedom fighters and also literature."

Two time lines

Vishal describes *Kanaka Marga,* which was screened at BIFFes 2023, as a children's film. "We had our premier show last weekend and are now looking at an apt date to release the film. The story is based in present time. It is about an MLA's son, who is chosen to don the role of Kanakadasa for a national-level school drama competition. The child, who is unable to speak the poems and verses, written by Kanakadasa struggles to do justice to the role. The drama teacher decides to take the children to the birth place of Kanakadasa, to relive and experience the saint's life and works. Does this transform the lives of the children who are a part of the play and used to the modern way of living is the story."

Vishal says he is happy making such films. "What is the use of presenting something that is unrealistic to people? I feel I should give back to the land and country that has given me so much.

"It is only when you travel to interior parts of Karnataka and the villages that you discover so many stories of freedom fighters that need to be presented to the world. I want to present that on screen."

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

People who returned home as Cyclone Biparjoy weakens

1 In lakh. The people who were sheltered from Cyclone Biparjoy in relief camps have begun to return home after the storm weakened. Although electricity had been restored in many villages, some are still without power. AP

Investments by FPIs in equities for the fourth consecutive month

16,405 In ₹ crore. The continued investments of Foreign Portfolio Investors in Indian equities is attributed to the country's strong economic rebound. PTI

Majority seek SATCOM spectrum allocation without auctions

73 In %. Respondents of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's consultations want satellite communication spectrums to be allocated through an administrative process and not through auctions. PTI

The wheat exports by India to countries facing food shortage

1.8 In million tonnes. The President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development has lauded India for exporting wheat to 18 countries that faced an acute shortage of food last year. PTI

The expected rise in Russian oil imports to India: ONGC

30 In percentage. Russia may account for almost a third of India's oil imports by the end of the financial year and trade between the countries will grow even stronger. REUTERS

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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China's 'developmental' security approach

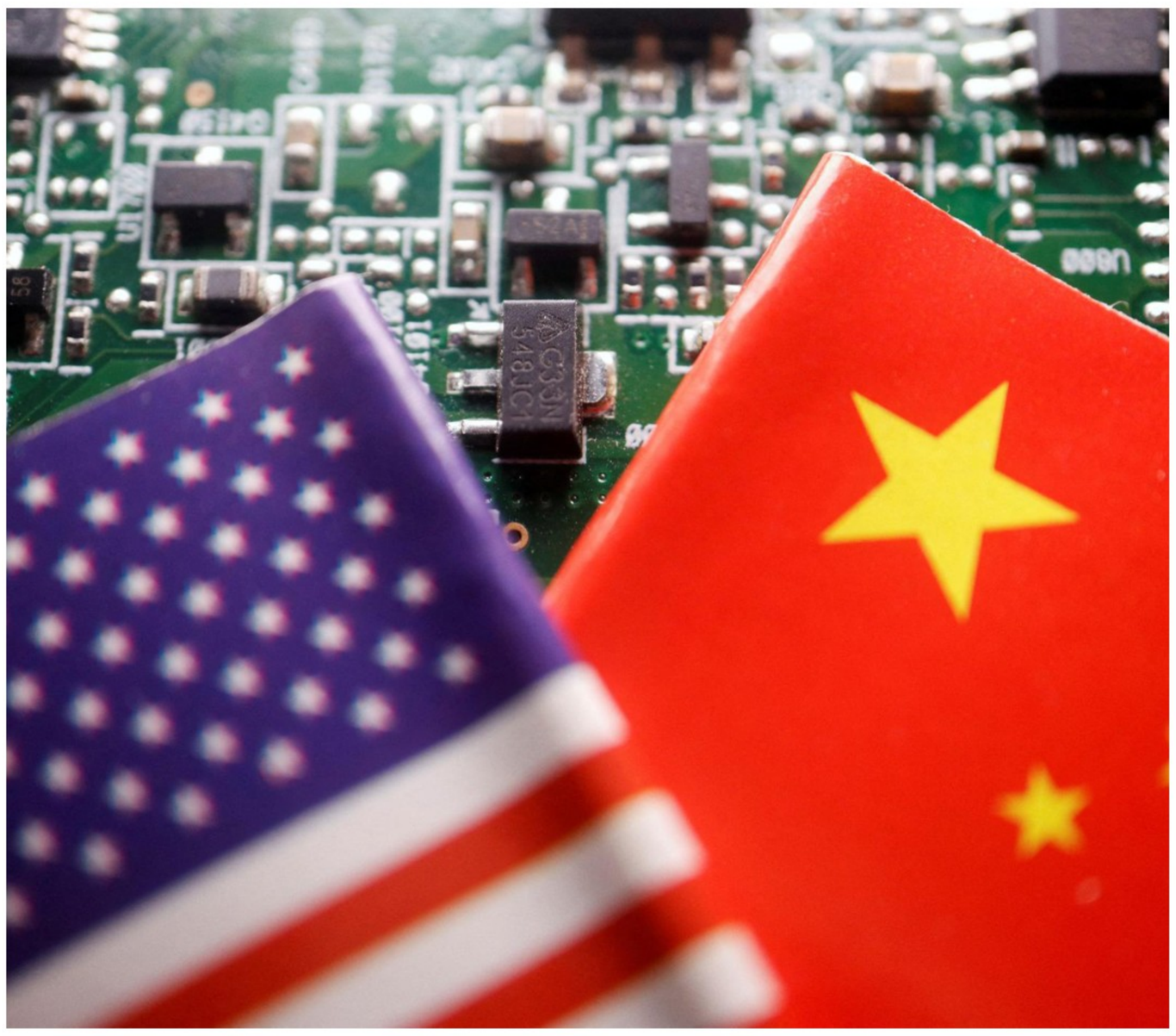
Why are the Chinese authorities cracking down on U.S. based companies and domestic firms dealing with overseas clients? Is the U.S- China rivalry at the root of these aggressions? How is China trying to balance development and security concerns? What is the view from India?

EXPLAINER

Amit Kumar

The story so far:

Late in May this year, the Cyberspace Administration of China announced that the U.S. chip giant Micron, which had been under investigation by the Cybersecurity Review Office, failed to obtain a security clearance, and that its products posed a threat to national security. Consequently, business operators tied to critical information infrastructure were advised not to procure Micron products. This is the latest incident in a series of crackdowns by the Chinese government against American consultancies and domestic firms dealing with overseas clients.



REUTERS

THE GIST

- Late in May this year, the Cyberspace Administration of China announced that the U.S. chip giant Micron, which had been under investigation by the Cybersecurity Review Office, failed to obtain a security clearance, and that its products posed a threat to national security.
- At the outset, the actions by Chinese authorities appear motivated by vengeance against the U.S.-led efforts to constrain China's tech advancement, as has been widely reported in the Western media. By heckling American firms and restricting their access to the vast Chinese market, Beijing seeks to capitalise on the divergence that exists between the U.S. administration and the American business community over the former's China policy.
- China now, finds itself in an odd spot where development and security are applying diametrically opposing forces, thereby creating a regulatory dilemma. While development requires "reform and opening up," and creating a business-friendly environment as the Party says, the need to balance development with security warrants enforcing restrictive measures which impinge upon free economic activity.

What are the other instances?

Two weeks before the Micron announcement, the Chinese authorities had raided the offices of Capvision, a Shanghai-based consultancy firm that connects lakhs of China-based experts with backgrounds in defence, military, finance, high tech, trade, energy, and medicine among others, to mostly overseas clients. Capvision was charged by Chinese security authorities with using economic inducements to steal state secrets and facilitating the transfer of sensitive information sourced from its experts, to its foreign clients. In the process, the company was found guilty of violating several laws relating to national security.

Before that, in April this year, the offices of American consultancy firm Bain and Co. were raided and its employees in China questioned. While no employee was detained, the authorities seized computers and phones from its offices. In March too, Chinese authorities raided another American firm called Mintz, and detained some of its employees, forcing the firm to shut its two offices in Beijing. Meanwhile, the Chinese government has been stalling several mergers and acquisition applications involving foreign entities, which has, in turn, led to mounting operational costs for foreign businesses.

Why is the Chinese government cracking down on such firms?

In October 2022, the U.S. tightened export controls which would make it harder for China to obtain and manufacture advanced computing chips and supercomputers. Therefore, at the outset, the actions by Chinese authorities appear motivated by vengeance against the U.S.-led efforts to constrain China's tech advancement, as has been widely reported in the Western media. By heckling American firms and restricting their access to the vast Chinese market, Beijing seeks to capitalise on the divergence that exists between the U.S. administration and the American business community over the former's China policy. Observers felt vindicated when Nvidia's founder and CEO, Jensen Huang, expressed his reservations over U.S.'s export control measures against China. He feared a fallout on Nvidia's revenues as China contributes to around 11% of its global earnings. In his statement to the *Financial Times*, Jensen even called China more valuable than Taiwan, owing to its irreplaceability as a large market.

The crackdown on consultancy and due diligence firms is likely to have ripple effects across all overseas businesses operating in China. Businesses rely on consultancy firms to navigate the regulatory environment which may prove to be challenging, especially in a country like China where regulatory unpredictability and uncertainty have been a norm in the last few years.

However, the above perspective amounts to a limited understanding of the motives of the Chinese authorities. There is a domestic component to these decisions that is different from the one that has largely been featured by mainstream media.

Why has security come to the forefront in Chinese politics?

Beijing has justified each of the above-discussed actions using national security concerns. However rhetorical as it may sound, the reality is that threat to security has become a ubiquitous concern in all aspects of governance in China.

Under President Xi Jinping, Chinese discourse on national security has repeatedly underlined that the idea of 'development' cannot be isolated from that of 'security'. On numerous occasions, including at the 20th Party Congress last year and the Two Sessions (the annual plenary sessions of the National People's Congress and of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference) this year, Mr. Xi emphasised the need to balance development with security. At the recently concluded meeting of the Central National Security Commission (CNSC), Mr. Xi said, "it is necessary to ensure the new development pattern with the new security pattern, actively shape a favourable external security environment for China in order to better safeguard its opening up and push for a deep integration of development and security." It is fairly evident that Mr. Xi wants the developmental agenda to be qualified by security.

China's incessant attempt to securitise its development has meant that non-traditional security issues have acquired greater significance in its developmental narrative. And among all the non-traditional security issues, cybersecurity and data/information security seem to concern Chinese authorities the most. This is apparent in their recent attempts to strengthen cybersecurity and counter-espionage laws.

The recently amended Counter-Espionage Law that will come into effect from July 1, 2023, aims to treat all "documents, data, materials, and items relating to national security and interests," at par with state secrets, thus, broadening the scope of espionage. It also expands the definition of espionage to include cyberattacks against state organs or critical information infrastructure. The revised law also empowers authorities to seize data, electronic equipment, information on personal property, and even ban border crossing. Following up on the above amendments, China also unveiled in late May its position paper on Global Digital Governance that calls upon States to "respect the sovereignty, jurisdiction and governance of data of other States," and to "not obtain data located in other States through companies or individuals without other States' permission." A combined reading of these documents with the Comprehensive National Security concept, first floated in 2014, suggests that the concept of national security has permeated each and every aspect of governance and developmental strategy during Mr. Xi's reign.

The recent crackdowns are thus reflective of this approach to 'developmental' security. The existing view within the Chinese administration is that several foreign businesses operating in China are indulging in espionage. The suspicion is that due diligence firms and consultancies are leveraging their vast networks to extract sensitive data under the garb of free exchange of information. The authorities also suspect the installation of backdoors by U.S. tech companies at the behest of their government.

What next?

China now, finds itself in an odd spot where development and security are applying diametrically opposing forces, thereby creating a regulatory dilemma. While development requires "reform and opening up," and creating a business-friendly environment as the Party says, the need to balance development with security warrants enforcing restrictive measures which impinge upon free economic activity. The victims of the recent crackdowns not only have the U.S.-China competition to blame but also China's evolving national security discourse. The fact that Chinese authorities clarified that their actions against Micron are an isolated case and all foreign businesses are welcome so long as they comply with domestic regulations, supports this idea. Nevertheless, the blurring of lines between development and security are likely to hurt foreign business sentiment in the long run.

However, from India's perspective, one cannot help but notice the outright contradiction that China's discourse presents when it comes to its relationship with New Delhi. While Beijing insists on the need to hyphenate development with security, it calls on India to keep the border issue (security) at its proper place and not let it derail the overall relationship (economics and development) with China.

Amit Kumar is a Research Analyst with the Indo-Pacific Studies Programme at the Takshashila Institution

INBRIEF

Seven BJP teams to tour State from June 22

To mark the ninth anniversary of the Narendra Modi-led Union government, the Bharatiya Janata Party leaders will be touring the State in seven teams between June 22 and 26, said BJP State general secretary and MLC N. Ravikumar. Speaking at a press conference, he said workers' meetings would be held in every district and people would be made aware of the achievements of the Modi government.

Trial run of Vande Bharat Express to be conducted

South Western Railway will conduct a trial run of Vande Bharat Express rake between Bengaluru and Dharwad on Monday, with a composition of eight coaches. The trial run will commence from KSR Bengaluru up to Dharwad, and then return to KSR Bengaluru, a release said.

Power struggle resurfaces in Congress

While two Ministers say Siddaramaiah will continue as the Chief Minister, D.K. Shivakumar's brother Suresh takes exception to such statements

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The shadowboxing over power sharing within the Congress between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has resurfaced even as the BJP is trying to wade into troubled waters.

After Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa's statement in Mysuru that Mr. Siddaramaiah will continue as the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister's brother D.K. Suresh on Sunday accused Dr. Mahadevappa of not focusing on his department's work. At Davangere, KPCC working president and Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi also joined the debate by stating that there has been no discussion on power sharing.

The Chief Minister, meanwhile, said that he was not aware of what Dr. Mahadevappa had spoken, and told reporters: "You should ask him on that."

Mr. Suresh told pressmen: "I do not know why Dr. Mahadevappa has given such a statement. He is a senior Minister, matured leader, has political strength and has his ideologies. I think he is more interested in speaking on other things than concentrating on his role as a Minister." When asked further, he refused to comment on the issue, and said: "Mr. Siddaramaiah and Dr. Mahadevappa would be able to explain the statement."

Mr. Jarkiholi told reporters in Davangere district that there has been no discussion on power sharing. "Mr. Siddaramaiah is currently the Chief Minister and I guess he will continue to be. There is no discussion on sharing of power, he said, adding that "Ultimately, it is also party's decision."

Minister M.B. Patil made a similar statement last month, which drew angry responses from Mr. Shivakumar's associates.

A senior party functionary told *The Hindu* that the issue might come up for discussion on June 21 in Delhi where Ministers have been invited for a meeting with senior Congress leaders. "The Ministers making public statements on power sharing could be individually asked to desist from speaking on power sharing and focus on governance, especially when guarantees have to be efficiently implemented."

Meanwhile, former Minister and BJP leader R. Ashok taunted Mr. Shivakumar that he was dreaming of becoming the Chief Minister.

"Mr. Siddaramaiah will not step down. He is a shrewd politician, who has handled even H.D. Deve Gowda and H.D. Kumaraswamy. He will continue as Chief Minister for five years." He said: "The fight over power sharing will be fought in streets like it is happening in Rajasthan Congress."

> I'm not aware of what Mahadevappa has spoken. You should ask him on that.
>
> **SIDDARAMAIAH,** Chief Minister

> Mr. Siddaramaiah is currently the Chief Minister and I guess he will continue to be. There is no discussion on sharing of power.
>
> **SATISH JARKIHOLI,** Public Works Minister

> I do not know why Mahadevappa has given such a statement. He is a senior Minister, mature leader, and has political strength. I think he is more interested in speaking on other things than concentrating on his role as a Minister.
>
> **D.K. SURESH,** Bengaluru Rural MP

D.K. Suresh wants to retire

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

D.K. Suresh, MP, has said that he wants to retire from politics.

On Sunday, he told reporters that he had shared with his party workers in Ramanagara about his intention to retire. "I feel I need rest. I don't fit into politics. Politics is for politicians. There are so many other ways to contribute towards social service. My decision is to create opportunities for others and promote leadership," he said.

When asked if he was upset, he said: "I am doing my work happily along with people in my constituency. I am not upset. There is one more year, and I will work for that term. I am satisfied with my work."

Anna Bhagya: Siddaramaiah asks BJP to convince Centre to give additional rice

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said that if the BJP was really interested in the welfare of the people, it should tell the Centre not to politicise Anna Bhagya scheme and provide necessary quantum of rice to Karnataka.

"The Centre is politicising the scheme. Why should the Centre create obstacles for a pro-poor programme? The BJP should tell the Centre not to politicise if it is genuinely interested in people's welfare," the Chief Minister told reporters here. "Had the FCI not agreed to supply 2.28 lakh tonnes of rice and asked us to speak to the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, we would have done that. Why should technicalities come in the way of implementing programme for poor?," he wondered.

On BJP's demand that the State government should buy rice from Karnataka, he said: "The rice grown in Raichur is Sona Masuri variety that costs ₹55 per kg. Can we give that rice? The five kg rice supplied now by the FCI comes at ₹36.60, including ₹2.60 transport cost."

When his attention was drawn towards another demand that money could be transferred to the beneficiaries instead, he shot back: "We are giving rice so that people can eat. Can people eat money?"

Mr. Siddaramaiah said: "We are speaking to Andhra Pradesh, but they are not speaking on supply. Telangana has intimated that it is not possible. Chhattisgarh has indicated that it can only supply 1.5 lakh tonnes."

Congress ridiculed

Meanwhile, MLA and BJP State vice-president B.Y. Vijayendra criticised the Congress government for trying to procure rice from other States. He ridiculed that the Congress government had more love for other States and hence was trying to procure from them.

'Provide 5 kg of ragi/jowar instead of rice'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Agricultural economist and former chairman of Karnataka Agriculture Prices Commission (KAPC), T.N. Prakash Kammaradi, has suggested to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to procure ragi and jowar from local farmers to be given as substitute to additional quantum of rice in the PDS instead of procuring rice from other States.

"More than hunger, it is malnutrition that is haunting people of Karnataka, especially women and children. Even the High Court of Karnataka has made an observation in this regard. Nutritional security can be taken care of by providing these nutri rich millets (ragi in southern Karnataka and jowar in northern Karnataka)," Dr. Kammaradi said, in a letter to the Chief Minister. He suggested that the government should start giving 5 kg of ragi/jowar along with 5 kg of rice under PDS to people after consulting farmers' organisations and experts.

T.N. Prakash Kammaradi

Pointing out that such a huge quantum of ragi and jowar may not be available immediately, he said farmers who are getting ready for kharif sowing now may opt for cultivation of these millets if the government promises them of procuring their produce by paying 50% more on the cultivation costs as per the recommendation of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan report.

Indicating that such a process would benefit both consumers and farmers, he said the KAPC had already submitted a report in this regard to the government in 2014.

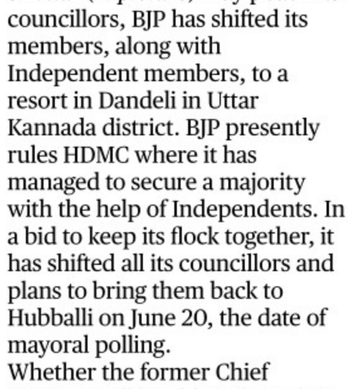
He said as per Swaminathan report, government would have to pay ₹50 per kg for ragi and ₹43 a kg for jowar. However, the actual "economic expenses" of rice procurement from other States would also be around ₹43 a kg. This would further go up as transport costs would also need to be added to this, he said, while arguing that it would be better to procure ragi and jowar from our own farmers instead of rice.

Expressing concern over the issue related to nutritional security becoming a bone of contention between the State and the Centre, he suggested to the State to bring pressure on the Centre to amend its Food Security Act to ensure that every person gets 10 kg of foodgrains a month under PDS.

Pointing out that a healthy person requires 10 kg of foodgrain a day, he said the Congress government in Karnataka should evolve a comprehensive plan to supply the scientifically recommended quantum of cereals, pulses, oil seeds and milk under PDS.

"Such a nutritional plan will not only be a model for the entire country, but also become a major agenda that can be placed in the Lok Sabha polls by the Congress," he said.

CORRIDORS OF POWER



Resort politics in mayoral poll too

Resort politics is not new to Indian politics, but it now seems to be percolating down to the local bodies too and the latest is the mayoral elections in the Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation (HDMC).

While BJP is being seen as a "specialist" in resort politics, the twist this time is that the BJP is being confronted by its own former leader who switched over to Congress just ahead of the last Assembly election. Fearing that former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar (*in picture*) may poach its councillors, BJP has shifted its members, along with Independent members, to a resort in Dandeli in Uttar Kannada district. BJP presently rules HDMC where it has managed to secure a majority with the help of Independents. In a bid to keep its flock together, it has shifted all its councillors and plans to bring them back to Hubballi on June 20, the date of mayoral polling.

Whether the former Chief Minister will be able to breach in the BJP fortress is likely to become clear before the arrival of Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, who is presently on foreign tour and is expected to meet the BJP councillors a few hours before the election.

Showing Shakti

Women, who have been enjoying free rides under the Congress government's Shakti scheme, seem to be teaching a lesson or two to conductors of Road Transport Corporation buses. On the launch day of Shakti, a couple of women got into a bus at Channagiri to reach Davanagere. But the conductor insisted the women buy tickets. His argument was that the benefit can only be availed on buses decorated specially to mark the launch of

the scheme. Knowing well the rules of the scheme, the women passengers maintained that it was past 1 p.m. (on June 11) and the scheme had come into effect officially. When the conductor did not budge, the women passengers insisted the conductor call up Chief Minister Siddaramaiah over the phone and get it clarified. The conductor wondered how he could call up the CM directly. Then, the women passengers suggested the conductor call up Channagiri MLA Basavaraj V. Shivaganga, if not the CM. Unable to continue the arguments with the women passengers, the conductor called up his senior officers over and handed over tickets with zero fare.

Protest raj?

With the Congress and the BJP launching protests against each other's policies, Karnataka seems to be becoming a "protest raj". The Congress has called a protest on Tuesday in all district headquarters against the Centre for denying the required quantum of rice to the State to implement its "Anna Bhagya" scheme.

Meanwhile, the Opposition BJP in the State has decided to protest against the Congress government's decision to scrap the controversial anti-conversion law, revise school textbooks and move to junk other laws, including anti-cow slaughter law, passed during the Basavaraj Bommai-led regime. Protests have become routine in the Opposition-ruled Delhi, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, with the State governments and the Central governments accusing each other on policy matters.

The launch of protest by the ruling Congress government in Karnataka against the Centre on the issue of rice will only intensify political slugfest between two national parties ahead of next year's Lok Sabha elections.

Girish Pattanashetti
Sathish G.T.
Nagesh Prabhu

Mahadayi: NGOs in Goa protest against State

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Members of several organisations held protest rallies in Goa against Karnataka's attempts to divert water from Mahadayi river basin to Malaprabha basin through the Kalasa Banduri Nala projects.

Members of Amchi Mhadei, Amchi Mai, Save Mhadei movement, Ami Goenkar, and others held rallies in Margaon, Marseilles and Sakali towns. River Mahadayi is called Mhadei in Goa.

In Margaon, they gathered at the city square and held banners against diversion of the Mahadayi river. They submitted a memorandum with a list of demands and resolutions to the government. On Saturday, Eknath Sindhe, Maharashtra CM, visited Goa and discussed various issues with Pramod Sawant, Goa CM. The two CMs issued a joint statement saying that they would oppose Karnataka's attempts at diverting Mahadayi waters.

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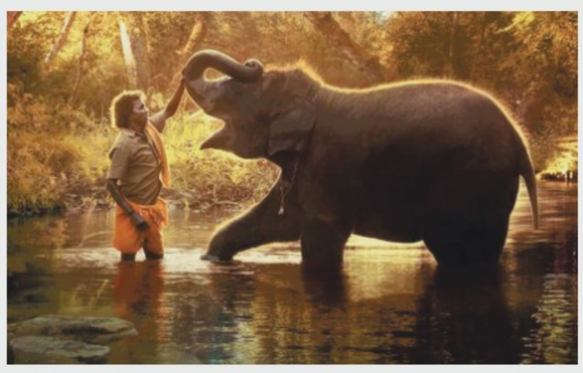

The Academy Award winning documentary film The Elephant Whisperers featured Bomman and Bellie and their elephant. **Which place was the story set in?**

Visit **bit.ly/FrontLineQuiz** to read the terms and conditions.
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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY

C.J. Paulose
(94 years)
Rtd. Deputy Chief Officer (RBI)
21/2/1929 - 16/6/2023

Deeply mourned by
Wife, Son, Daughters,
Sons-in-law, and Grandchildren
Funeral service will be held at 11.30 AM on
Tuesday, 20/6/2023 at
The Francis Xavier Cathedral, Frazer Town, Bangalore
followed by burial at the Kalpalli Cemetry.
Ph: 9845205871

DEATH

Mr R K VISWANATHAN
Asst. Divisional Manager (Retd) LIC
07-06-1933 to 18-06-2023
We bid farewell to a great sportsman and scholar. His grace and zest for life shall forever remain with us
Funeral on Tuesday 20 June 23 @ 8am @ Y 81, (Old No. Y 11)
5th Main Road, Annanagar, Chennai 600040
Grieved by: Manohar, Jamuna, Uma, Durgaprasad, Navin, Preethi, Kripa , Vinoth, Anthara, Ashwin, Varsha & Bharath
Phone : 98400 15698

SAD DEMISE
We deeply regret to inform the sudden demise of
Smt. Aparna (@ K. Sreedevi)
wife of K.S. Madhukar (Retd. ING Vysya Bank) on 18.06.2023 at Chennai after a brief illness.
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Telegram bots: their functioning and possible security threats

Bots on Telegram are small applications that run entirely within the platform and can be designed to support any kind of task or service. However, not all of them are secure and safe. They may collect user data, including personal information and chat history

Nabeel Ahmed

On June 12, reports came out which alleged that a Telegram bot had access to and was presenting the identification numbers of the documents submitted for vaccination purposes which includes Aadhaar, PAN card, and even passport numbers of individuals. In a similar incident, in 2021, a bot on the platform was found selling phone numbers pulled from Facebook. Security researchers reportedly found a network of deep fake bots on the platform that were generating non-consensual images of people submitted by users, some of which involved children. *Vox* described Telegram as "ISIS's app of choice", saying the real use of the platform was the use of channels to distribute materials to large groups. While the platform has acted to remove public channels affiliated with terrorism, its backers have reiterated that they have no business snooping on private conversations.

What is Telegram?

Telegram is an open-source API messaging platform service launched in 2013. The platform allows developers to create their own apps and use the free-to-use API to develop specialised tools, like bots, to integrate services. The platform currently has over 700 million monthly active users and is one of the 10 most downloaded apps in the world, and is known for supporting file shares of up to 2GB, stored on the cloud that can be accessed from different devices.

Supported financially by Pavel Durov and his brother Nikolai on the technological front, Telegram makes money through its sponsored messages and premium subscriptions. The platform protects private conversations from snooping third parties including officials, marketers, and advertisers, the platform's website says. The platform does not process any requests related to group chats and private conversations among participants. They only entertain requests related to sticker sets, channels, and bots as they are publicly available.

What are Telegram bots?

Bots are computer programs that act as agents of a user or another computer program. Bots on Telegram are small applications that run entirely within the platform and can be designed to support any kind of task or service.

Bots on Telegram can host full Web Apps and can be designed to support everything from online stores to arcade games. Additionally, they can also be designed to make it easier for users to access information held within large databases they are connected to. Users can enter commands, or simply enter the name or description of files they are looking for and the bot can search the connected database to present the information. Bots are listed on the platform as special accounts that do not require a phone number to set up and are connected to the owner's server which processes input and requests from users. They can be found using the search feature on the Telegram app. Users can identify bots by looking at their username which usually has bot as the suffix. They can also have @stickers @gif @wiki or @bing as their suffix.

Who can create bots on Telegram?

Any developer with some skills in computer programming or a third-party service provider can create a Telegram bot using the platform's bot API. The API gives the tools and framework required to integrate code for the bot within the platform. The platform assists the creation of bots through "Botfather" a virtual user designed to be the central development tool for Telegram bots.

Telegram requires bots created using its Bot API to be registered using an authentication token generated by the platform. Bots on the platform can be created using a wide range of programming languages which include Java and Python.

What is the use of bots on Telegram?

Bots are usually used in professional areas for smart communication and pulling information from defined databases. Users can send commands to bots that they respond to with relevant information or perform tasks they are designed to do. For example, if a user does not wish to open their email app to check their messages, they can use a bot to check their email within the Telegram app. Users can also authorise bots to respond to emails from the Telegram app.

Are bots on Telegram safe?

While Telegram encourages developers to create bots that comply with its terms of service, not all bots may be secure and some can pose security risks.

Bots may collect user data, including personal information and chat history and users should read the terms of service and privacy policy to understand how individual bots handle user data. Bots can also be created by threat actors to contain malicious content, such as links to phishing websites or malware. Threat actors can also distribute bots to scam users, promising rewards or discounts on purchases to lure users into sharing their personal data. Some bots could have security vulnerabilities that can be used by threat actors to compromise the security of users. Introducing a bot to a secure Telegram chat could also downgrade the level of encryption as they may not be using Telegram's encryption protocol, which works by scrambling and making it illegible while in transit, a report from *Wired* said.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's birthday, a quiz on Nobel Peace Prize winners

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

An accomplished chemist and Nobel winner in chemistry, he is also considered as the founder of "molecular biology". He also won the Nobel Peace Prize for his advocacy against nuclear weapons, becoming one of just two people to win the Nobel in different fields. Name him.

QUESTION 2

Invited to India by the advisor to the Indian Minister of Agriculture Dr M.S. Swaminathan in 1961, this person is credited with the success of the Green Revolution and won a Nobel Peace Prize for that. Name him.

QUESTION 3

A Vietnamese revolutionary who was one of the leaders of the Viet Minh's independence movement against the French and later oversaw the Communist insurgency against South Vietnam, this person was jointly awarded the Prize in 1973. However, he refused the award, claiming that the Vietnam war was not over. Name him.

QUESTION 4

Author of an engagement policy with North Korea called the "Sunshine Policy", this person is also referred to as the "Nelson Mandela of Asia". Name this Prize winner.

QUESTION 5

Founder of Nadia's Initiative, an organisation dedicated to "helping women and children victimised by genocides, mass atrocities and human trafficking", this Iraqi Yazidi activist won the Peace Prize in 2018. Name her.

Visual question:
This South African leader, under whom later Prize winner Nelson Mandela served as a deputy, was the first African to win the Peace Prize in 1960. Name him. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Questions and Answers to the June 16 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The first woman to walk in space. **Ans: Svetlana Savitskaya**
2. This astronaut holds the record for the most cumulative days in space by a NASA astronaut. **Ans: Peggy A. Whitson. She spent 675 days in space**
3. On Kalpana Chawla's first mission in 1997, this was her specialisation. **Ans: She specialised in operating the robotic arm**
4. The first female pilot of a space shuttle mission. **Ans: Eileen M. Collins**
5. These two astronauts hold the record for carrying out the first all-woman spacewalk. **Ans: Christina H. Koch and Jessica U. Meir**
Visual: This astronaut was the first Korean in space. **Ans: Yi So-yeon**
Early Birds: V. Siddhartha| Joseph Nelson| Vaishnavi Veeramani| Indira Priyadarshini

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Your excuse sounds pretty thin to me!

I initially had some ideas to get more viewers but they are all now dead in the water

S. Upendran

"I read an article about your company. You guys seem to be doing well."

"Better than expected. Hopefully, they'll give us a big bonus at the end of the year."

"Wasn't there a plan to move the headquarters to some other city?"

"That was our ex-CEO's brainchild. The idea is now dead in the water."

"Dead in the water? Never heard that expression before."

"When you say that something like an idea or a plan is dead in the water, what you're suggesting is that it is unlikely to succeed now or anytime in the future."

"In other words, the plan is a failure."

"I guess you could say that."

"My plan to go to the Wimbledon tournament is dead in the water. "

"That's too bad. I know you were looking forward to the trip."

"I certainly was. But tell me, where does the expression 'dead in the water' come from? Is it a fish that is dead?"

"What is dead is not a fish, but a ship. You see in the old days, a ship depended on the wind to get from one place to another."

"That's right! If there was no wind, the ship couldn't move. It remained motionless. Just like a dead person!"

"Exactly! Since there was no movement because of the lack of wind, the ship looked dead in the water."

"Makes sense. Tell me, did you and your friends go to the concert yesterday?"

"Yes, we did. My friends didn't particularly care for the music. But I really enjoyed it."

"Glad you did. The hall must have been packed."

"Surprisingly, we had a pretty thin crowd."

"Thin crowd? Does it mean that you didn't have much of a crowd?"

"That's right! When you say that the crowd was thin, what you mean is that only a small number of people were present.."

"How about this example? *The Chief Minister was rather disappointed with the thin turnout*."

"Sounds good! Now then, tell me what's been..."

"Does 'thin smile' mean a small smile?"

"No, it doesn't. You see, the word 'thin' has several different meanings. When someone gives you a thin smile, he gives you a smile which is not sincere."

"In other words, it's a fake smile."

"It is not a genuine or enthusiastic smile."

"Our Hindi teacher was famous for her thin smile."

"The word 'thin' has other meanings as well. When you talk about a 'thin excuse', what you're suggesting is that it's not a very good excuse."

"In other words, people are likely to dismiss it. Not take it seriously."

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Vertiginous:
having or causing a whirling sensation; liable to falling

Synonyms: giddy, dizzy, woozy

Usage: *It is bound to be a vertiginous climb up the cliff.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/vertiginouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /vɜː(ɹ)ˈtɪʤɪnəs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

TAPAS UAV achieves major milestone off Karwar coast

INS Subhadra off Karwar Naval Base. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The indigenously developed TAPAS 201 UAV has achieved a major milestone as the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy have successfully demonstrated transferring of command and control capabilities of the UAV from a distant ground station to onboard INS Subhadra.

The DRDO and Indian Navy successfully demonstrated transferring of command and control capabilities of TAPAS UAV from a distant ground station to onboard INS Subhadra, 148km from Karwar Naval Base.

The demonstration took place on June 16 and according to DRDO the TAPAS took off at 7.35 a.m. from Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) in Chitradurga which is 285 km from Karwar Naval Base.

"TAPAS took off at 07.35hrs from Aeronautical Test Range (ATR), Chitradurga which is 285 km from Karwar naval base. One Ground Control station (GCS) and two Ship Data Terminal (SDT) were installed in INS Subhadra for controlling the UAV. After trial TAPAS landed back at ATR.

The UAV was seamlessly flying around an altitude of 20,000ft (ASML). INS Subhadra controlled UAV operations for 40min during its 3.30hrs flight duration," DRDO tweeted on Sunday.

The indigenously developed TAPAS 201 Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) UAV has been designed and developed by the Bengaluru based Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE)

TAPAS 201, a multi-mission UAV is being developed to carry out the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance roles for the three Armed Forces with an endurance of 24 to 30 hours.

Dubbed the Indian version of the U.S.' Predator drones, TAPAS 201 is capable to carry different combinations of payloads like Medium Range Electro Optic, Long Range Electro Optic, Synthetic Aperture Radar, Electronic Intelligence, Communication Intelligence and Situational Awareness Payloads to perform missions during day and night. The MALE UAV was earlier referred to as RUSTOM.

Karnataka takes top spot in monitoring lakes, waterbodies: ActionAid

Telangana, however, tops in offering relevant water quality data; most pollution control boards in India fail to maintain relevant data on lake water quality, says analysis by NGO

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

A view of Varthur lake in Bengaluru. Karnataka monitors 172 lakes. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Karnataka tops the country in monitoring lakes and waterbodies, but when it comes to offering fresh and relevant data of water quality, neighbouring Telangana beats the former, found a nation-wide analysis conducted by ActionAid Association.

Karnataka and Telangana monitor 172 and 160 lakes, respectively, jointly accounting for 59% of the total number of 562 lakes being monitored by various State Pollution Control Boards/ Pollution Control Committees in across 28 States, said the analysis.

Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tripura, Rajasthan and West Bengal accounted for 161 of monitored lakes in the country, while Goa, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Haryana, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Puducherry, Meghalaya, Odisha, Nagaland, Mizoram and Chhattisgarh put together have 69 lakes under monitoring, as per ActionAid study.

State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees are expected to monitor lakes and periodically update water quality data on their websites to help the custodians of the lakes, who are mostly the local public administrative bodies.

The best and the worst

Study found that Telangana was the only State that offered "most updated" lake water quality data in less than 30 days of testing the water samples from various lakes in the State and updated it on the websites of PCB.

Four States, including Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, were identified as "updated'' within 30 days of water sample testing while Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Uttarakhand and Sikkim were rated under "delayed updation'' between 60-90days. Kerala, Tripura, Puducherry, Bihar, Goa, Tamil Nadu, J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Nagaland reported lake water quality data that was "not useful for lake conservation'' in a 6 months to 7-years period.

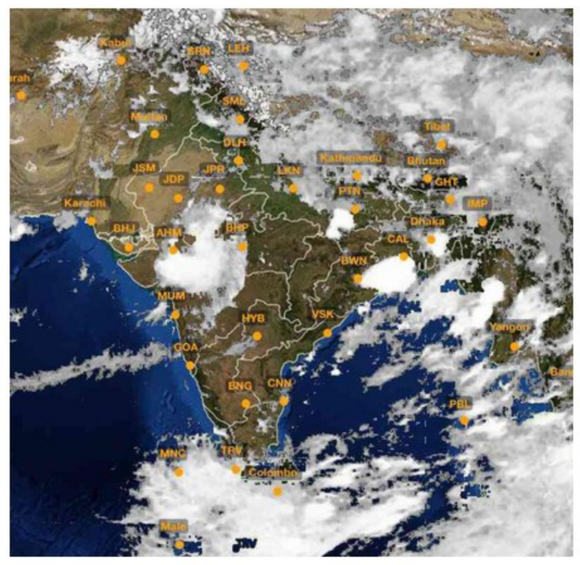
At the bottom

The country's worst State Pollution Control Boards/ Pollution Control Committees were from the national capital Delhi and Gujarat that maintained only "junk", unusable and 10-year-old data, according ActionAid Association data exclusively released to *The Hindu*. Meanwhile, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Maharashtra, Punjab, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Odisha and Chandigarh had "lack of data." However, Pollution Control Boards in Lakshadweep, Ladakh, and Manipur didn't even have websites.

"Lakes are dynamic and living bodies. It is critical for concerned authorities to offer fresh updates on the quality of lake water to understand the health of each and every water body, also life in it and around it. Our analysis revealed that in most cases, lakes are neglected or not even acknowledged as important elements of the ecosystems,'' said Raghavendra B. Pachhapur, Senior Lead Projects, ActionAid Association.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall with isolated falls likely over Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim. Heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places over Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, and heavy rainfall at isolated places over Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.2	30.9	25.5	Kozhikode	17.0	33.4	24.6
Ahmedabad	4.0	33.8	26.7	Kurnool	—	39.5	27.8
Aizawl	—	29.3	20.0	Lucknow	—	41.0	31.0
Allahabad	—	44.2	31.4	Madurai	—	34.7	27.2
Bengaluru	1.0	31.5	22.6	Mangaluru	116	30.6	23.0
Bhopal	—	38.9	26.9	Mumbai	0.6	34.0	28.0
Bhubaneswar	—	44.3	29.6	Mysuru	—	34.2	—
Chandigarh	—	39.2	29.4	New Delhi	2.9	36.8	26.6
Chennai	—	38.0	29.9	Patna	—	44.7	30.4
Coimbatore	—	34.1	23.4	Port Blair	9.0	30.6	25.4
Dehradun	—	36.2	24.5	Puducherry	—	35.5	28.0
Gangtok	59.0	20.8	17.4	Pune	—	33.8	24.2
Goa	14.0	33.5	24.5	Raipur	—	42.4	31.0
Guwahati	40.0	28.5	23.4	Ranchi	2.0	40.4	26.5
Hubballi	—	33.0	23.0	Shillong	5.0	22.6	17.8
Hyderabad	—	39.2	28.0	Shimla	—	24.0	17.2
Imphal	7.0	25.1	20.1	Srinagar	—	31.8	17.0
Jaipur	—	29.8	26.2	Thiruvananthapuram	11.0	29.8	24.2
Kochi	37.0	29.2	25.2	Tiruchi	—	33.3	29.0
Kohima	25.0	20.6	16.0	Vijayawada	—	41.4	30.6
Kolkata	—	32.9	30.4	Visakhapatnam	—	35.8	31.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.05	.17	.06	190	219	
Bengaluru	.07	.11	.18	75	83	
Chennai	.03	.60	.82	72	66	
Delhi	.17	.86	.82	78	118	
Hyderabad	.07	.02	.21	42	104	
Kolkata	.06	.15	.12	35	64	
Lucknow	.13	.45	.42	135	139	
Mumbai	.66	.01	.54	26	274	
Pune	124	195	113	75	67	
Visakhapatnam	.—	.62	.34	84	145	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Chhapra, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 279 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Naharlagun, Arunachal Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 21

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Bengaluru police trace missing captain of ship

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

It was a special operation carried out by a team of five policemen from Madivala station to track down a 35-year-old captain of a ship who went missing under mysterious circumstances on Monday.

Five policemen with a basic clue began their operation and searched for the missing captain for two days before they zeroed in on him at a hotel where he was found de-stressing.

The missing man hailing from Tamil Nadu worked as the captain for a private shipping company for many years. He spent most of his days on the ship and in sea. During this process he developed work-related stress and took leave to visit his family.

On Monday, he landed at KIA from Dubai and boarded a taxi to reach Madivala with an intention to take a bus to his native place. He even made a few calls to his family to inform about his arrival before changing his mind minutes later.

Suffering under heavy stress, he switched off his mobile and checked into a hotel and locked himself in a room to "de-stress". Anxiously waiting for him, his family in Tamil Nadu tried to reach him on phone, which was switched off.

After repeated attempts, the family rushed to the city and filed a missing person complaint.

The police team tracked him down at a hotel. The captain, when questioned, told the police that he was under heavy stress and took a break to de-stress. He was handed over to the family members.

Siddaramaiah calls on Archbishop

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah met Archbishop Peter Machado of Archdiocese of Bengaluru at his residence here on Sunday. He was accompanied by Ministers K. J. George and B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan. The meeting was said to be a courtesy call.

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ICAR- Indian Institute of Soil & Water Conservation, Research Centre,
Cantonment, Ballari-583 104, Karnataka, India
Mobile: 8123481237, Email: soilcons21bly@gmail.com;

F No: 33/2023-24/Farm Date: 15.06.2023

OPEN AUCTION NOTICE

The Acting Head of the Centre, ICAR-IISWC, Research Centre, Ballari, Dist: Ballari is pleased to invite the intending bidders to participate in open auction notice for auction of naturally grown Subabul trees at Research Farm, Ballari on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** subject to the fulfilment of the following terms and conditions.

Sl.No.	Description	Date &Timings
1.	Date of issuance of Auction Notice	16.06.2023 17.00Hrs
2.	Bid Submission start Date	16.06.2023 17.00Hrs
3.	Last date & Time of Submission of Bid	07.07.2023 15.00Hrs
4.	Date and time of opening of Bid	07.07.2023 15.00-17.00 Hrs

Items particulars:-

S.N.	Name of the farm produce	No. of trees	Harvestable pulp wood (tons)	Location	EMD (Rs.)
1	Crop: Subabul Trees (Leucaena leucocephala)	1413	88.5 Harvestable diameter at breast height (dbh): >10cm	ICAR-IISWC, Research Farm, Ballari	13,000/-

*** GST Amount @ 18 % is to be paid in addition to Sale value by the successful bidder.**

Terms and conditions:

Interested bidders may participate in the open auction and may quote their lump sum rate for entire harvestable pulp wood (tons) 88.5 after depositing an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of demand draft drawn in favour of "Central Soil and Water Conservation" payable at State Bank of India, Ballari or any kind of e-payment (Centre's current account No: 10768619218 and IFSC: SBIN0000817) and proof of deposit must be submitted along with the tender form and failing of which tender shall be rejected.

The auctioned items should be taken away within fifteen days from the date of receipt of order at their own cost on **"as is where is basis"** after paying total balance bid / auction amount along with GST. Canvassing whether directly or indirectly in connection with the auction is strictly prohibited and by those participants/bidders who resort canvassing shall liable to be rejected. The rates should be quoted for the subabul pulp wood on weight basis (Rs. per tons). This centre will not allow/ entertain the participants who have not deposited the EMD. Only the firm/ person deposited the EMD is only allowed in the bid process.

In case of any dispute arising out of in relation to this auction shall be referred to the Acting Head, ICAR-IISWC, Research Centre, Ballari. For details please visit: www.cswcrtiweb.org, Email ID: soilcons21@gmail.com and cpp portal.

(Dr. M.Prabhavathi)
Acting Head

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, J.B.Subramanian Residing at No.F-401, Ajmera Infinity, Neeladri Road, Doddathogur,Electronic City Phase-1, Bangalore-560100 have changed my Name to Subramanian Joghee Bheeman vide Affidavit Dated: 15-06-2023 Sworn Before Notary K.S.Giridhar, Bangalore

I, HITHERTO known as Kadam Nandraj Abajirao alias Nandraj Patil S/o Abajirao Madhavrao Kadam , Resident of 5–2–113, KHB Area,near New Water Tank,BHALKI 585328,dist Bidar, Karnataka , have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Nandraj Patil .It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

TENDERS

THE KERALA STATE HOMOEOPATHIC CO-OPEATIVE PHARMACY LTD.
(Sponsored by Govt.of Kerala)
Pathirappally P.O., Alappuzha, Kerala - 688 521
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (WTP)
HOMCO invites EOI from Govt. accredited /Non Govt. reputed firms /companies for re commissioning of water treatment plant. Last date of submission is on 26-06-2023 at 5 pm. For more details Contact : 0477 2258012, 9946668792
Alappuzha 16.06.2023 (Sd/-) Managing Director

THE KERALA STATE HOMOEOPATHIC CO-OPEATIVE PHARMACY LTD.
(Sponsored by Govt.of Kerala)
Pathirappally P.O., Alappuzha, Kerala - 688 521
Ph: 0477 2258012, 2258665
email: homcokerala@gmail.com
Web: www.homcokerala.com
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (FIRE FIGHTING WORK)
HOMCO invites EOI from Govt. accredited agencies for execution of Fire Fighting work at HOMCO, Alappuzha.For details visit our website.Last date of submission is on 26.06.2023 at 5 pm.
Alappuzha 16.06.2023 (Sd/-) Managing Director

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LXV ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-66)
O.S. NO. 5380/2022
Hg. 17/07/2023
BETWEEN :
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at : Landmark, Race- Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007, Having its head office at MG Road and Zonal office at : 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru- 560068 and also having branch at MG Road, Bengaluru through its Authorised representative. Mr. Rohith Ali M ...Plaintiff
And :
Mr. Rajashekar Madevappa Harawal ...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC
Defendant :
Mr. Rajashekar Madevappa Harawal,
S/o. Madevappa Harawal, Aged about 32 Years, No. 1670/44, 1st Main Road, Vinayak Nagar, KS T, Near Rabini Theatre, Bengaluru- 560 060.
Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 8,80,474.68/-** along with interest at the rate of 15% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LXV Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru **(C.C.H.-66),** in person or by a pleader, on the day of **17/07/2023** at **11:00 AM** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 9th day of June, 2023 at Bangalore.
By order of the court
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court,
Bengaluru.
Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road,
Bengaluru- 01.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE 57th ADDL. CITY CIVIL SESSION JUDGE MAYOHALL AT BENGALURU CCH 58
MISC PETITION NO. 25118 OF 2021
In
O.S. NO. 25191 OF 2021
Hg. 13.07.2023
Between :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited
Having its branch office at 4/10, Mythree Towers Bommanahalli Hosur Main Road, Bangalore- 560 068
And represented by its Collection Manager
Mr. Pramodh G.
...PETITIONER
AND
Mr. Allwyn Abraham
...RESPONDENT
SUMMONS TO RESPONDENT
To
Mr. Allwyn Abraham
S/o. Abraham Joseph
Aged about 38 years
R/at No.306 3rd Cross, 4th Main Kanteerava Nagar
Nandini Layout, Bangalore- 560 096
Whereas the Petitioner had instituted the above proceedings against you for restoration of Original Suit bearing No. 25191 of 2021 seeking recovery of **Rs. 4,14,657,93/-** as on **29th January 2021** along with interest 24% p.a. and other consequential relief. You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble City Civil Judge Mayo Hall at Bangalore (CCH 58) in person or by a pleader quly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on **13/07/2023** at **11:00 A.M.,** take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before the suit will be hears and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Court, this **2nd** day of **June 2023.**
By Order of this Hon'ble Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court Mayo hall
Bengaluru
ADVOCATE FOR PETITIONER
ANVAYA LAW
ADVOCATES AND CONSULTANTS
First Floor Indian Express Buildings, No.1, Queens Road
Bengaluru- 560 001
Cell No. 9845806822
Vasudevan.hn@anvayalaw.com

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Preparedness pays off

India escaped the fury of the cyclone because of early warnings from the IMD

A potent cyclonic storm, Biparjoy, swept through Gujarat and parts of Rajasthan last week and while it did cause noticeable destruction to the infrastructure, scores of injuries and cattle deaths, there have been only two reported casualties. The India Meteorological Department began issuing its first reports on the cyclone's trajectory as early as June 8, and by June 11, the agency first indicated that the storm would not bypass India, as previously estimated, but would likely sharply swing towards coastal Saurashtra, Gujarat. The storm was also categorised as falling in the 'very severe' category – average wind speeds of over 115 kmph. The four days of lead time and an estimate of its strength gave enough time for district authorities in Gujarat to begin evacuating people – nearly 1,00,000 people in the coastal regions of the States were moved to shelters and close to 30 central and State disaster relief teams were kept ready. The railways cancelled several trains and fishermen too received advance warnings of the cyclone's impact, that kept them away from the sea.

There were power outages in 1,092 villages, about 5,120 electricity poles were knocked down and an estimated 186 transformers and 2,502 feeders were damaged in the Saurashtra-Kutch region. While shops and establishments have reportedly re-opened, a full return to normalcy is still awaited. Experience from recent years shows that cyclones, whether in the Bay of Bengal or the Arabian Sea, and their expected impact can be precisely gauged only 36-60 hours ahead. While a greater lead time should in theory mean more time for preparation, the nature of coastal infrastructure, inefficient communication networks and livelihood patterns, combined with the natural fury that cyclones bring about, mean that there are limits to precautionary measures. A cyclone in 1998, that struck Gujarat, reportedly killed nearly 3,000 people, and it can be safely said that India has moved beyond that era. However, there are newer threats on the horizon. Several studies warn that the Arabian Sea, thanks to the effects of global warming, is likely to be the fountainhead of many more severe cyclones. Frequent evacuation cannot be implemented as a permanent policy intervention and efforts must be made to ensure that coastal-regulation-zone norms that prescribe the kind of structures permissible at specific distances from the shoreline must be strictly implemented. The dwellings of rural, coastal inhabitants must be strengthened and natural bulwarks such as mangroves at wetlands must be buttressed for improved resilience.

Massacre of innocents

Uganda and Congo must do more against Islamist militants

The killing of at least 41 people, including 38 students, in an attack on a school on the Uganda-Congo border by suspected Islamist militants is yet another cruel reminder of the worsening security situation in Africa. In recent years, Islamist and militant violence have picked up across the continent, from North Africa to Somalia, as governments look increasingly weaker. The border region between Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo is no stranger to militancy. Ugandan authorities have blamed the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), an Islamist militant group that largely operates from the Congo, for the attack. According to the police, a group attacked the Lhubiriha secondary school, located just two kilometres from the Congolese border, with machetes and grenades on Friday. Students were hacked, some them kidnapped. the dormitory set on fire and the school looted. In 1998, the ADF had attacked another school on the Congolese border, where some 80 students were burnt to death. The outfit, which declared its allegiance to the Islamic State terrorist entity, in 2016, utilises such attacks for their shock value and to use kidnapped students as child soldiers.

The ADF was formed in the 1990s by a number of militant groups opposed to the rule of Ugandan leader Yoweri Museveni. Founded by a former catholic who had converted to Islam, the ADF's main recruiting plank was that Muslims, who make up some 14% of Uganda's population (official figures), are being discriminated against under Mr. Museveni's rule. After the 1998 school attack, the Ugandan and Congolese armies launched a joint operation, which forced the ADF to relocate to the jungles of eastern DR Congo. The group became active again in recent years as different al Qaeda and Islamic State-linked outfits emerged stronger in Africa, particularly after the North Atlantic Treaty Organization invasion of Libya that brought down the regime of Muammar Qadhafi, caused a civil war and triggered a proliferation of weapons in the hands of militant groups across the continent. The situation in Uganda is particularly grave. Under Mr. Museveni, who has been in power since 1986, the country has never been stable or peaceful. He has presented himself as an ally in the war against terror, while at the same time, turning his regime more repressive at home. In neighbouring Congo, another civil strife-hit country, the vast expanses of lawless eastern parts are a safe haven for militant extremists. Uganda and the Congo say they are committed to fighting militants including the ADF, but those words are written in sand unless the regimes take urgent measures to improve the quality of governance, implement law and order and launch joint operations, with help from international actors, against the growing networks of militants in the region.

What Indians should be saying to the U.S. on June 21

Akeel Bilgrami

is Sidney Morgenbesser Professor of Philosophy, Professor, Committee on Global Thought, at Columbia University

Sheldon Pollock

is Arvind Raghunathan Professor Emeritus of South Asian Studies, at Columbia University

When this April India surpassed China as the world's most populous nation, commentators were quick to declare this the "Indian Century", a plaudit primarily reflecting the so-called "demographic dividend". By 2030, the ratio of India's working-age population to its total population will reach 70%, the highest of any large economy in the world. This is a workforce of extraordinary magnitude – fully one quarter of the globe's – and a consumer class of equally extraordinary potential.

A powerhouse of the world

There have been other Indian centuries, however – prior to the colonial depredations suffered before regaining independence in 1947. For a millennium before the arrival of the British, India, along with China, was a powerhouse; by the 1600s it is estimated to have possessed up to a quarter of the world's production capacity. The imperial capital in Delhi was the destination of ambassadors, from the court of King James I to that of the Ayutthaya emperor of today's Thailand; of poets and painters and musicians from across central and west Asia, and of craftsmen from as far afield as Italy, who brought with them the pietra dura artistry that adorns the Taj Mahal.

That century was only the last of many marked by breathtaking achievements. How even to begin an inventory? The invention of zero, making possible algebra and calculus and eventually the computer; the perfection of linguistics, matched by the West only in the 20th century; a language landscape vastly unlike Rome's or China's, which saw writers in dozens of languages producing works of transcendent beauty; weavers who clothed the world as far as Africa and beyond; metallurgists who made corrosion-resistant iron 2,000 years ago. And farmers who sent new cereals and cumin, cardamom, and other cultivars into the world – who also demonstrated how to live in harmony with animals hunted to extinction everywhere else.

Colonialism eroded most of the traditions that made India great, but after four decades of the most creative mobilisation for freedom in history, the country began in 1947 to reclaim its patrimony. Although the democratic constitution of independent India may have been written by an Indian who had studied at Columbia University, B.R. Ambedkar, the republican practices and federalism inherent in it have much deeper roots in the country; and while independent India's self-description, "unity in diversity," may have become a mere slogan today, it was exemplified throughout the long historical record of India's pluralism.

The remarkable achievements of India's distant and more recent past, above all, its singular achievement of learning to live with religious and cultural differences, are now at risk, under the government of Narendra Modi. From the moment he became Prime Minister in 2014 (after a youth spent in the ranks of a paramilitary organisation avowing Hindu nationalism, and then a long stint as Chief Minister of the State of Gujarat, where he was accused – and is still suspected by many despite his acquittal by courts – in the mass killing of Muslim citizens in 2002, Mr. Modi initiated a practice of intrusive state power and majoritarian nationalism that is unlike anything India has ever seen, while destroying much of what made India great.

Is this the Indian century?

A systematic campaign

Last year, watchdog groups (including Genocide Watch, echoed by a Georgetown University study) issued warnings about the organised oppression of India's Muslims (14% of the population, nearly 200 million). It cited, in particular, the 2019 revocation of the special autonomous status of Kashmir, ending seven decades of protection; the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the National Register of Citizens, together aimed at expelling Muslim refugees from Bangladesh but also reducing to second-class citizenship, millions of Indian Muslims, who lacked documents that many Indians lack; and anti-conversion laws, which the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom has found to be inconsistent with human rights.

And this is to say nothing of daily arrests and detention of Muslims on no lawful grounds, and repeated beatings and lynchings of Muslim shopkeepers and tradesmen. In a word, Mr. Modi's government persecutes Muslims both by the construction of laws and governmental practices that violate human rights, while maintaining silence over the atrocities committed against them by the lethal energies its own religious nationalism has unleashed.

Under Mr. Modi, the government has pursued a systematic campaign to destroy civil society, outlawing non-governmental organisations (NGOs), undermining universities, think tanks, and research centres, and harassing the independent press.

Last winter in its documentary, 'India: the Modi Question', the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) reviewed a British government document from 2002 that found Mr. Modi "directly responsible" for the slaughter of Muslims during the Gujarat riots, and that the violence had "all the hallmarks of genocide". Two months later, the Mumbai and New Delhi offices of the BBC were raided by the Central Board of Direct Taxes, citing "irregularities and discrepancies" in the broadcaster's taxes.

Comparable tactics have been used against environmental groups, including Oxfam India, Environics Trust, and the Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE), whose director, the lawyer Ritwick Dutta, has been persecuted by the Central Bureau of Investigation), as well as against the Centre for Policy Research (CPR), India's leading public policy think tank. In each case, their foreign contribution licence was cancelled, effectively ending their capacity to function.

There has been a concentrated attack to undermine the intellectual and administrative autonomy of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, the most distinguished institution of higher education in the country, and research institutes such as the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies in New Delhi and the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta, long admired for their intellectual freedom, have suddenly had their budgets slashed by the central government.

The independent press has virtually been silenced . "Press Freedom Violations in India" (a report from the International Press Institute) identified 83 violations between April and September, 2022. "Over the past eight years, the Modi government and BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] supporters have attempted to silence independent media through attacks and repressive laws.... At least 18 journalists faced physical attacks and violence during this monitoring period, with cases involving both state and non-state actors."

The Adani saga

Some of these abuses and assaults have targeted legitimate opposition to the activities of one company: Adani Enterprises, whose director is a Modi intimate.

This global conglomerate, headquartered in India, has been much in the news. In November, *The New York Times* reported that the company's president, Gautam Adani, was named the richest man in Asia. Soon thereafter a New York financial research firm demonstrated that he had been running "the largest con in corporate history". What should also have been making news are Mr. Adani's coal mines, and his close ties to Mr. Modi.

NGOs have been investigating Mr. Adani's staggering environmental destruction – including the devastation of some of the most biodiverse regions of the world, in eastern India and the wholesale elimination of villages and indigenous lifeways – in his pursuit of some of the world's dirtiest coal. Yet, it is Mr. Adani's critics whom the government has punished, as *The Washington Post* has reported, not the con that he perpetrated, nor the Prime Minister, who has strenuously helped him secure the lucrative coal deals.

The religious persecution, the attacks on NGOs, independent research centres, and the press are bad enough. The furthering of environmental chaos, of potentially global proportions but particularly catastrophic for India itself – Mr. Adani has been named by Oxfam as the third most culpable carbon billionaire in the world – shows the true scope of the problem.

As Chief Minister, Mr. Modi was denied a visa to the United States in 2005 because of his perceived involvement in the Gujarat pogrom. This week he arrives on a state visit to the United States, despite the fact that his human rights and civil liberties record since being elected Prime Minister in 2014 is in many ways worse. The plain fact is that this record has been totally ignored by Presidents Barack Obama, Donald Trump, and Joe Biden. If, as the White House has said, the Indian leader will be visiting in order to "strengthen our two countries' shared commitment to a free, open, prosperous, and secure Indo-Pacific", America's leaders must start talking seriously about what freedom and openness now mean in India. India will only inaugurate an 'Indian century' if its great traditions of pluralism and respect for diversity can be recovered.

Responsibility and the complexities of climate leadership

Sheikh Hasina

is the Prime Minister of Bangladesh

Mohamed Nasheed

is Speaker of the Maldivian Parliament and a former President of the Maldives

The misplaced campaign to unseat the President-Designate of COP28 could result in setbacks to emissions cuts and climate action

Over the last few weeks, there has been an increasingly vocal campaign to unseat the President-Designate of COP28, Minister Sultan Al Jaber of the host nation, the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This includes a recent letter from United States and European parliamentarians calling for his removal on the grounds that he is CEO of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company. As representatives of developing countries in the climate change front line, i.e., Bangladesh and the Maldives, and as leaders of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, a group of 58 of the world's most climate vulnerable countries hosting 1.5 billion of the world's poorest people, we know only too well the urgency of the climate challenge. We have endured climate-related economic losses of $500 billion in the last two decades alone.

This is a journey of unity

However, we also recognise that this journey, towards a clean energy future, is one we must embark on together. Fossil fuel-dependent economies are critical to these efforts, and they clearly have a more difficult task defining their energy transition strategy. It is important to avoid division and we must continue to engage our fellow parties at COP28 and elsewhere on the best way forward for their economies and for the planet.

Sultan Al-Jaber has led Masdar, the renewable energy company which has made huge investments in solar and wind projects. The UAE's Barakah nuclear power plant, which was recently opened, generates 6 gigawatts (5.6 or 5.8?) of clean power. Masdar and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) recently signed an agreement aiming to triple global renewable energy capacity by 2030. This is leadership of our global clean energy future, in the most practical sense.

Finance will be crucial for COP28. Our programme of Climate Prosperity Plans, including the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan adopted in Bangladesh, seeks to generate inward investment of tens of trillions of dollars in building clean energy infrastructure. This climate prosperity agenda recognises that economic growth for the poorest countries is non-negotiable, and that our prospects should not be curtailed so that the rich countries can keep on polluting.

Luckily we do not seek coal, oil and gas; we seek electricity, transport and industry, all of which can now be increasingly delivered with clean energy. We seek the UAE's leadership in helping secure investments supported by sovereign wealth funds and multilateral development banks which can deliver the huge boost in climate prosperity we need.

Debt is a barrier

Many of our nations are also crippled by unsustainable debts, including debts which are becoming unpayable due to climate damages largely caused by emissions elsewhere. Rather than going one by one over the financial cliff, we urgently need a collective approach which recognises the debt problem and the barrier it now poses to clean energy investment and climate adaptation. Sovereign wealth funds and multilateral development banks (MDBs) could assist in de-risking restructured debts and insuring re-issued climate bonds, as Sultan Al-Jaber has suggested. Sultan Al-Jaber can now demonstrate to Europe and North America what leadership really means by explicitly signalling to sovereign wealth funds and MDBs that he wants to see their full participation. We further call on the UAE leadership for a clean energy target starting in 2025, transforming the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company into the Abu Dhabi Clean Energy and Grid Company by 2030, and towards global financial reform including of the International Monetary Fund.

Thus, finance continues to be central to the COP outcome. The Loss and Damage fund that was secured last year in Sharm El-Sheikh must not be just be another empty bank account, and fossil fuels-dependent economies can demonstrate their commitment to a shared future by making subscriptions to support funding for climate damages in the most vulnerable countries, well in advance of the COP.

There are no winners and losers in a global climate breakdown, the oil industry included. As representatives of the most climate vulnerable developing nations, we call on American and European parliamentarians to reconsider their position. Instead of seeking to exclude relevant parties and stakeholders, we believe everyone should participate in decisions with such important ramifications.

Holding COP28 in the UAE, and with Sultan Al-Jaber as COP President-Designate, may well be an opportunity to engage the fossil fuels industry to make some significant and quantifiable commitments to emissions cuts and climate action in general. Time is running out, and we all need to work together to save the 1.5°C Paris target before it is too late.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Political battleground

It is unfortunate that textbooks have now become the new political battlegrounds, with political parties influencing what young minds should study ('South' page, "Karnataka govt. orders textbook revision with 18 changes", June 18). Today's student is tomorrow's leader. Our political leaders must note that books and pens must be used to change the world for the better and not used to cross swords, with students as victims.

T.S. Karthik,
Chennai

Blocked routes

It is surprising that the official reaction to the issue of elephants straying into human habitations in the Anaikatti area of the Tamil Nadu-Kerala border area is evasive ('South' page, June 18). During a recent visit to the place, I found almost the entire stretch of road leading to Kerala through Anaikatti to have barbed/electric wire fencing to ensure that elephants do not cross from one side to the other, even though it is their normal path. This is forcing elephants to take other routes, thus leading to man-animal conflict.

Soundarrajan,
Chennai

Candid talk

Ravichandran Ashwin's candid interview ('Sport' page, June 16) confirms his status not only as a top-ranked bowler in the world but also as a seasoned cricketer. But, not playing your best spinner was questionable. Such a risk need not have been taken in a final of a world championship. It has become clear that Ashwin's days are numbered. That he is mature enough to accept it is heart-warming.

V. Lakshmanan,
Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Emerging challenges to the Dravidian model

Kalaiyarasan A.

is Assistant Professor at the Madras Institute of Development Studies and Research Affiliate at the South Asia Institute, Harvard University

The introduction in Tamil Nadu of a Bill raising the number of working hours from eight to 12 hours a day, and its withdrawal amid protests, has reopened the discussion around the strategies for industrialisation that do not undermine workers' rights. The core ideal of the Dravidian model is the pursuit of inclusive industrialisation that addresses both economic deprivations that arise through the market and social deprivation that emerges from caste inequality. The model is about sharing prosperity through productivity. In that sense, the introduction of the Bill raising working hours was a deviation from its core ideal. Even as the Bill stands withdrawn, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) government claims that the amendment would have attracted more investments to the State and created employment. This understanding is deeply flawed.

Structural change reversing?

Tamil Nadu is one of the few States to have achieved structural change and poverty reduction simultaneously in India. A key indicator of this is the lower share of agriculture in total employment in the State as against the all-India average. However, this trend is reversing now. The share of agricultural employment increased from 27% in 2018-19 to 30% in 2020-21. Even in absolute terms, it increased from 8.5 million to 10.5 million. The entry of 2 million people into agriculture is driven by distress. The share of manufacturing declined from 20% to 16.8%. The decline is sharper in absolute terms, from 6.5 million in 2011-12 to 5.8 million in 2020-21. Of course, the period discussed here precedes the present DMK government assuming power. Yet, we do not see the course correction followed since then to be promising either. For instance, a recent government release says that State investments worth ₹2,73,448 crore were secured in two years by signing 224 memorandums of understanding. While we are not sure how much of the investment was actually realised, what is interesting is the claim of the creation of 4,10,561 jobs which work out to be 0.01 per unit of promised capital (less than one job per crore of investment), much lower than earlier. As per the latest Annual Survey of Industries data (2019-20), the ratio of jobs created per unit of capital (number of worker to gross capital formation) investment was 0.58 for Tamil Nadu, 0.34 for Gujarat and 0.33 for Maharashtra. Unless we arrest this trend, we will end up in the situation of diminishing wages and vanishing jobs.

Historically, Tamil Nadu's uniqueness lies in the pursuit of development that delicately balances the needs of capital with a requisite degree of safeguards for workers. As a result, even when wage share in national income has been falling across the world due to increases in capital intensity, Tamil Nadu has a higher share of wages in gross value added (GVA) terms in the factory sector when compared to most States. The average wage share in GVA for 2019-20 was 21% in the State, nearly twice that of Gujarat (12%) or Maharashtra (14%). The world over, the share of wages has been declining due to policies that favour capital by pushing for labour market flexibility. Tamil Nadu is no exception, but has been able to protect its workers in relative terms. The relative wage levels are higher because of lower levels of contractualisation and the better bargaining strength of labour. The share of directly employed workers in the State was 80% in 2015-16 as compared to the all-India average of 66%. This trend is fast declining now (76% in 2019-20) due to use or abuse of contract labour under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970. There has been a shift against workers both in the interpretation of these acts in courts and on the ground. That is the strength of Tamil Nadu, but it is waning now. In fact, the DMK itself came with the promise in its election manifesto in 2019 that it will work with the Union government to form a tripartite committee to address the grievances of workers at the State and national levels.

Tamil Nadu need not follow this race to the bottom. Dilution of labour laws or tax concessions are not the only source of competitive advantage. The State's advantage lies in its skilled workforce, robust infrastructure, the existing institutional ecosystem that generates positive externality through good forward and backward linkages, and its governance style that reduces operating costs.

Skilling and future of work

While the trend of labour-saving automation in manufacturing and the new-age platform economy is going to be deepened, dispossession of routinised jobs and the shrinking share of the wage bill in the GDP of almost all countries are inevitable. With the average life of a skill becoming shorter and shorter, manufacturing alone may not be the solution for the future of work. The shift to knowledge-based industry in the service sector is inevitable. However, Tamil Nadu's achievement in higher education with a Gross Enrolment Ratio of 51.4% compared to the all-India average of 27.1% has not helped this transition either. The poor quality of school education, lack of infrastructure in higher education, and poor applied skills imparted in vocational education have created a skill gap or employability problem of youth.

Recent efforts in attracting software investments in Tier-2 cities are encouraging. While Naan Mudhalvan, the skill-enhancement scheme for less privileged students, is laudable, the impact of such measures in terms of access to employment is not known.

What Tamil Nadu requires is a renewed approach to address the qualitative aspects of social policy, and an industrialisation strategy that ensures decent wages and dignified working conditions.

Tamil Nadu requires a renewed approach to address the qualitative aspects of social policy, and an industrialisation strategy that ensures decent wages and dignified working conditions

A case of propriety versus politics

Stalin's unconditional backing of Senthilbalaji raises uncomfortable questions

STATE OF PLAY

D. Suresh Kumar
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Tamil Nadu Minister V. Senthilbalaji's arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in an alleged money laundering case would have ordinarily been a routine legal affair with the Supreme Court's approval. However, the agency's ill-timed and poorly executed plan in the wee hours of last Wednesday has snowballed into a national political controversy.

Mr. Senthilbalaji's arrest against the backdrop of Home Minister Amit Shah's visit on a "political mission" has given ammunition to Chief Minister M.K. Stalin to call the action vindictive. The atmosphere was vitiated by Governor R.N. Ravi, who jumped the gun in seeking his ouster from the Cabinet a fortnight earlier, citing the Supreme Court's green signal for the investigation against the Minister.

The ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-led Secular Progressive Alliance has used the opportunity to launch a tirade against the Narendra Modi government and the Raj Bhavan. It has also withdrawn the general consent given to the Central Bureau of Investigation to probe cases in the State.

Given the Centre's extensive use of investigation agencies selectively against politicians of opposition parties, the fears of vendetta cannot be overruled. Considering the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s political necessity to make inroads in Tamil Nadu before the parliamentary elections, there is no ruling out similar action against ruling party politicians. An ED investigation is pending against Fisheries Minister Anitha R. Radhakrishnan due to judicial

intervention; a case against the DMK's financially resourceful MP S. Jagathrakshagan was quashed by the Madras High Court. The longer the agency succeeds in immobilising "election managers" such as Mr. Senthilbalaji, the better the BJP's prospects in keeping the DMK in check in certain key regions. It could also infuse fear among the ruling party's moneybags thereby impacting the DMK's spending capacity in the parliamentary elections..

However, a dispassionate study of the case against Mr. Senthilbalaji would show that he may not be entirely above board, though it is for the judiciary to decide his guilt. It is not just the ED that is probing him. The cash-for-jobs scam in the Metropolitan Transport Corporation was registered by the police in 2015 soon after he was dropped from the Jayalalithaa cabinet. Mr. Stalin himself had demanded action till Mr. Senthilbalaji joined the DMK in 2018. The case dragged on as the accused took recourse to multiple legal actions and sought to settle it out of court as well. A key accused, Baskar, died last year under circumstances that require an investigation.

In fact, in September last year, the Chennai Central Crime Branch informed the Madras High Court that it had conducted a detailed investigation against Mr. Senthilbalaji in 2017 and collected sufficient evidence to prove his involvement in the crime. It examined 21 witnesses in one case and collected materials "indicating his culpability".

While setting a two-month deadline for the Investigating Officer to complete the probe in the case, the Supreme Court in May said it would keep open the option of constituting a Special Investigation Team (SIT).

Against this backdrop, Mr. Stalin's unconditional backing and retaining of a political turncoat as a Minister without a portfolio citing only his "hospitalisation" raises uncomfortable questions. It remains a moot point if the Investigating Officer would be able to proceed freely against the Minister, who the ruling party has given a clean chit to, and projected as a political victim in the related ED case.

Mr. Stalin's action is in contrast to his earlier administrative decisions reflecting an eagerness to project an image of providing clean governance. In 2021, he had quickly transferred to the Crime Branch CID the probe in the alleged murder of a worker in a cashew factory belonging to DMK Cuddalore MP T.R.V.S. Ramesh. The parliamentarian surrendered thereafter and the CB-CID took him into custody for interrogation, infusing confidence in the probe.

Irrespective of the Chief Minister's political compulsions to safeguard Mr. Senthilbalaji, it could hurt his personal image and also put the government in an uncomfortable situation should the Supreme Court constitute a SIT for a fair probe. Legally there is no bar on Mr. Senthilbalaji's continuing as minister. But propriety may demand he is kept out, at least till the police complete investigation and he gets bail in the ED case.

Biparjoy part of a new trend in Indian cyclones

While the number of cyclonic disturbances has decreased, their intensity has increased

DATA POINT

D.V.L.S.Pranathi & Vignesh Radhakrishnan

The cyclonic disturbances over the North Indian Ocean, which includes the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal and the land area in between, have gone through many significant changes in recent decades.

First, the number of cyclonic disturbances in the North Indian Ocean has declined considerably over the past four decades.

Second, this decline was mostly due to a rapid decrease in the number of cyclonic disturbances originating from the Bay of Bengal, the source of most past cyclones to have made landfall in south-east and west Asia. In contrast, the number of such disturbances originating from the Arabian Sea has been steadily increasing in recent years, though the count is still relatively low. More importantly, while the frequency of disturbances has decreased, the intensity of cyclones has increased in recent decades.

Chart 1 shows the 10-year rolling average of cyclonic disturbances between 1891 and 2022. For instance, in 2022, the 10-year average was 10.27, that is, in the previous 10 years (2013-2022), on average, there were 10 cyclonic disturbances per year. As the chart shows, the average was about 15 disturbances in the 1940s and 1950s and later in the 1970s. It decreased to below 10 in the 1990s, 2000s and 2010s. After a gap of almost three decades, the average went slightly above 10 cyclonic disturbances in 2023.

Chart 2 shows the 10-year rolling average of cyclonic disturbances between 1891 and 2022 originating from the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. The number of cyclonic disturbances originating from the Bay of Bengal has rapidly declined since the 1970s. In contrast, those originating from the Arabian Sea have considerably increased. From 1891 to 1962, on average, less than two disturbances per year were recorded from the Arabian Sea. However, since then, the average has increased, with over three cyclones being recorded in the 2020s (similar to the peak in the 1979-1983 period).

A story published in *The Hindu* on Saturday reported that global warming is causing the Arabian Sea to heat up, which is resulting in more, stronger cyclones. Data show that about 34% of all disturbances that originated in the Arabian Sea have become severe cyclonic storms (a top speed of >48 knots) compared to the 19% of disturbances which originated from the Bay of Bengal and become severe cyclonic storms. The report further points out that the Indian Meteorological Department finds it tougher to forecast cyclones originating from the Arabian Sea as the models have to be adjusted given the oceanographic differences it has with the Bay of Bengal.

Chart 3 shows the peak intensity recorded by all cyclonic disturbances between 1994 and 2023. The chart only plots the peak surface wind (in knots) recorded by a cyclone during its journey. For instance, Biparjoy reached a peak intensity of 90 knots, three days before its landfall on June 15 in Gujarat. As can be observed from the chart, between 2019 and 2023 (latest five years), the share of severe cyclonic storms (>48 knots) in all cyclonic disturbances increased to 32%, the highest for any five-year period since 2004. In the last five years, 55% and 17% of the cyclonic disturbances were depressions (<33 knots) and cyclonic storms (34-47 knots), respectively. The 1999-2003 period too recorded a 34% share of severe cyclonic storms, with the 1994-1998 period recording 52%. So, the intensity of storms originating in the North Indian ocean is once again on an upward cycle.

A sea change

The charts are based on data collated from the Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre for Tropical Cyclones over The North Indian Ocean (RMSC, New Delhi)

Chart 1 | The 10-year rolling average of cyclonic disturbances between 1891 and 2022

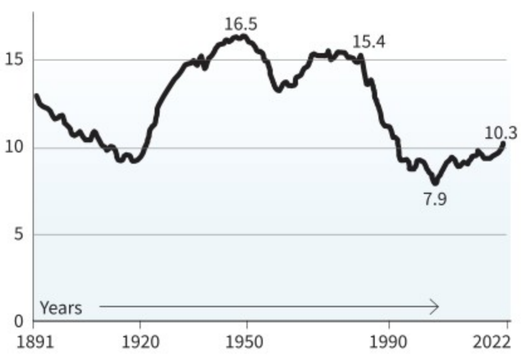


Chart 2 | The 10-year rolling average of cyclonic disturbances between 1891 and 2022 originating from two basins

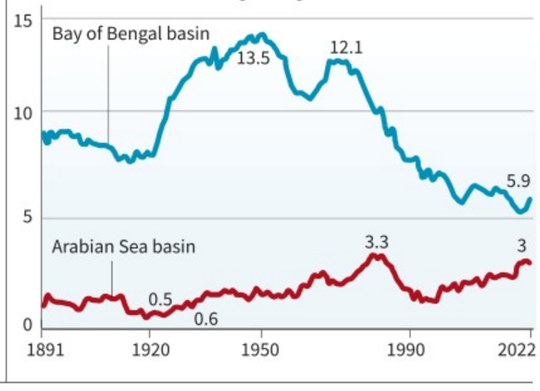
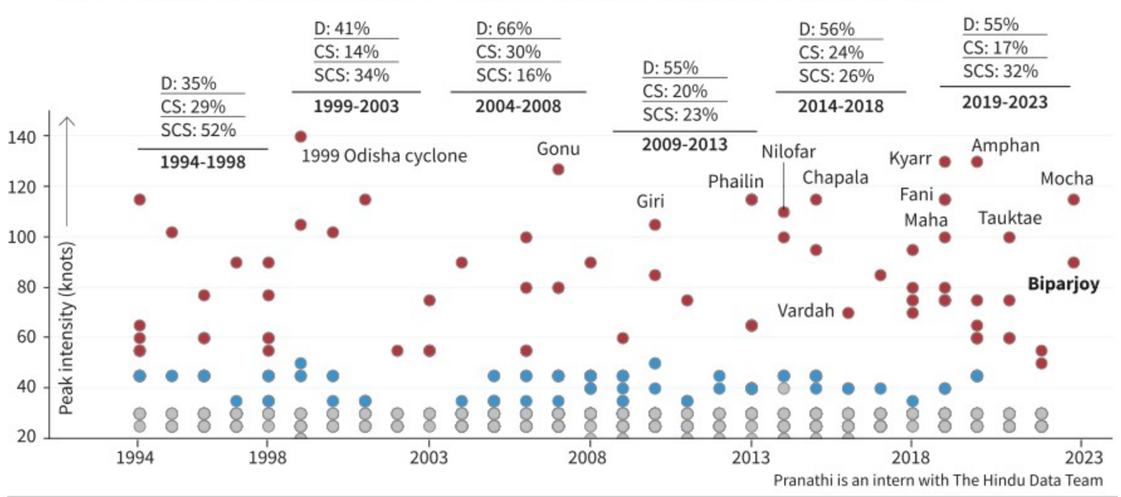


Chart 3 | Chart shows the peak intensity recorded by all cyclonic disturbances between 1994 and 2023. The chart only plots the peak surface wind (in knots) recorded by a cyclone during its journey. The graph marks seven five-year periods starting from 1994-1998 and ending with 2019-2023. The text above the graph shows the share of depressions (D: <33 knots), cyclonic storms (CS: 34-47 knots) and severe cyclonic storms (SCS: >48 knots) in all cyclonic disturbances in the five-year periods



Pranathi is an intern with The Hindu Data Team

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 19, 1973

Mrs. Gandhi reviews mutual relations with Canadian PM

Ottawa, June 18: Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Prime Minister Peirre Elliott Trudeau of Canada held two hours of talks this morning during which they "reviewed and renewed" the friendly co-operative relations that have existed between the two Commonwealth countries for nearly a quarter of a century. Since no specific agenda has been set for these talks it was understood to have been a free wheeling discussion in which political and economic issues, both multilateral and bilateral in scope, figured. Mrs. Gandhi arrived here last evening by a special Air India plane and was received at the airport by Canada's External Affairs Minister Mitchell Sharp, a ranking member of Mr. Trudeau's government, as the Prime Minister himself was away from the capital at the time. After other members of the Government, some members of both Houses of the Canadian Parliament and the diplomatic corps were presented to Mrs. Gandhi, she went through a brief but colourful ceremony at the airport where a large number of people of Indian origin had also gathered to greet her. She then drove to the residence of Governor-General Rolland Michener where she is staying, to rest after her long flight from Belgrade. Several clusters of people of Pakistani origin, numbering in all about 200, held a largely silent demonstration at three points along the route of Mrs. Gandhi's motorcade but there were no incidents. Besides black flags the demonstrators carried placards demanding the release of Pakistani POWs.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 19, 1923

Frontier operations

Simla, June 18: Air operations were carried out on the 2nd April in the Hills north of Dardoni near a point where the Afghan boundary forms a sharp salient against the Tazi Khel Wazira on account of their prolonged contumacy and repeated offence, including the firing of troops kidnapping of Hindus. It has recently been established by a joint enquiry held by the officials of the Afghan and British Governments that some bombs felt at a distance not exceeding 500 yards on the Afghan side of the Durand line causing the death of two Afghan subjects wounding 5 and inflicting damage to livestock.

From Page One

Biren asks Mizoram CM to protect Meiteis

Meanwhile, Rajkumar Imo Singh, a legislator from Manipur, said that 25 MLAs were now in Delhi.

"A team of almost 25 MLAs have reached Delhi. We are meeting various Senior Central Leaders starting tomorrow to discuss in depth the current situation in Manipur and ensure that there is peace everywhere in the State. More stringent measures needs to be taken up to stop the ongoing conflict/violence and bring normalcy in the State," he said in a tweet.

Mob violence

More than 50,000 people have been displaced in the ethnic violence between the Kuki and Meitei communities that erupted in Manipur on May 3. Of these, about 10,000 displaced Kukis have fled to Mizoram. The Chin-Kuki-Zo communities, with shared ethnic ties, are settled across Mizoram and the hill areas of Manipur, as well as across the border in Bangladesh and Myanmar. A sizeable number of Meitei also live in Mizoram.

Multiple incidents of attempted violence and mob build-up were reported across Imphal on June 16. Mobs had gathered in an attempt to vandalise State BJP president A. Sharda Devi's house near Porompat in Imphal. At least two civilians were injured after the Rapid Action Force fired rubber bullets and tear gas on a mob of about 1,000 people that attempted arson in the city's Palace Compound area.

Indian medicines under lens over adverse events

Early in April, the Supreme Court granted leave to proceed in the case and suspended imports from these companies. Indian drugs made the news yet again in May 2023, when doctors at the general hospital in Nuwara Eliya, in Sri Lanka's Central Province, reported complaints of visual impairment among 10 patients who were administered Indian medicines after eye surgery. The doctors cited the "presence of germs" in the eye medication as the reason for their patients' condition. Health authorities initiated an inquiry and withdrew the drug to prevent further use.

The series of incidents have brought Indian drugs under sharp scrutiny within Sri Lanka, including in the local media, which has urged the authorities to "nip a possible national-level health threat in the bud". Some highlighted the cases of the Gambia and Uzbekistan, where Indian-made cough syrups were recently linked to the deaths of dozens of children.

For years, India has been Sri Lanka's top source of medical supplies, accounting for nearly half of its pharmaceutical imports that in 2022 totalled about $450 million. The trading link became more crucial in the wake of Sri Lanka's unprecedented economic meltdown last year, that led to critical shortages, including medicines. The crisis-hit country continued procuring essential medical supplies from India, through the credit line offered by the Government of India, as part of its nearly $4 billion assistance to the island nation.

The death reported at the Sri Lankan hospital last week has brought the quality of imported drugs, as well as the responsibility of Sri Lanka's national drug regulator, back to the national headlines.

When contacted, Minister of Health Keheliya Rambukwella said that authorities were conducting tests, adding that a report was expected soon. Sri Lanka has been importing eye medication from the same Indian supplier for seven years, well before the Indian credit line came into effect, he said. "Sometimes, there could be a quality failure in a particular batch, or a problem with storage or transportation. Sometimes, patients may not be aware of their allergy to a drug. We have withdrawn the drugs for now, and have also sought compensation from the Indian manufacturers," he told *The Hindu*.

Vinya Ariyaratne, president of the Sri Lanka Medical Association, said these recent cases reflect a larger "two-fold" crisis facing Sri Lanka's health sector: the persistent shortage of drugs on the one hand, and the serious concerns being raised about the quality of available drugs on the other.

The situation is "a national health emergency" requiring attention from the "highest levels", he told *The Hindu*. Despite the government importing medicines through the Indian credit line, shortages continue to affect Sri Lanka's public health care system. Several drugs administered for routine medication, as well as vital drugs prescribed for patients affected by cancer and kidney ailments, are in short supply across government hospitals, forcing low-income families to buy them from private pharmacies.

"There is no price regulation at pharmacies and even basic drugs, such as those for diabetes, are very expensive. Patients from poor families cannot afford these medicines, and they regulate their own dosage, which can be very dangerous," Dr. Ariyaratne said. "Doctors practising in the public healthcare system are reliant on donations for drugs and reagents [used for lab tests]. It is not sufficient or sustainable."

As for the apparent failure in quality control, the senior medical practitioner pointed to Sri Lanka's "weak" regulatory system as the "main problem". "The NMRA [National Medicines Regulatory Authority] is totally dysfunctional. The waiver of registration has allowed all sorts of medical procurements without any due process or accountability. We have to address this problem urgently if Sri Lanka is to have a proper supply of good quality drugs in at least six months' time," Dr. Ariyaratne said.

In *Mann Ki Baat*, PM speaks on Emergency, efforts to eradicate TB

Modi hails the achievements of sportspersons in his monthly radio broadcast; Congress takes a dig at PM over 'silence' on Manipur violence

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

BJP members and workers listen to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's *Mann Ki Baat*, at Majnu Ka Tila in New Delhi on Sunday. ANI

Ahead of his state visit to the U.S., Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday addressed a special out-of-turn episode of *Mann Ki Baat*, where he sought the blessings of the citizens for the trip and also recalled the horrors of the Emergency, saying that "as India is the mother of democracy, we can never forget June 25", the day the measure was imposed.

Mr. Modi said that usually the episode was put out on the last Sunday of every month, but since he was travelling to the U.S., he wanted to speak to the people before that.

Mr. Modi hailed the progress that is being made towards a tuberculosis-free India by 2025. He spoke of how dairy farming was picking up pace in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla, India's strong disaster response strategy as seen in the preparations for Cyclone Biparjoy, the need to conserve nature through means like rainwater harvesting and afforestation, and the continuous hard work of the nation's sportspersons, which was bringing international laurels.

However, the Congress took the opportunity to take a dig at the Prime Minister's silence over the ethnic violence in Manipur, where over 100 have been killed and tens of thousands displaced.

Jairam Ramesh, Congress leader, said in a tweet, "So one more *Mann ki Baat* but *Maun* (Silence) on Manipur. The PM patted himself on the back for India's great capabilities in disaster management. What about the entirely man-made [actually self-inflicted] humanitarian disaster in Manipur. Still no appeal for peace from him. There is a non-auditable PM-CARES Fund, but does the PM even care for Manipur is the real question."

In the episode, Mr. Modi tied the themes of his topics around public participation, citing the role of the people in helping preparations for Biparjoy, their efforts to conserve water, and their active participation in the mission to eradicate TB.

Mr. Modi mentioned the Nikshay Mitra programme, under which social organisations, villages, panchayats and individuals can "adopt" TB patients to help and support and remove the stigma.

Reminding listeners that June 25 was nearby, Mr. Modi said, "It was a dark period in the history of India. Lakhs of people opposed the Emergency with full might. The supporters of democracy were tortured so much during that time, that even today, it makes the mind tremble. I wish that, today, when we are celebrating the *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* we must also have a glance at such crimes which endanger the freedom of the country."

Gita Press, Gorakhpur, awarded Gandhi Peace Prize for 2021

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

It has published 41.7 crore books in 14 languages, including 16.21 crore copies of the Gita

The Gandhi Peace Prize for 2021 will be conferred on Gita Press, Gorakhpur, one of the largest publishers of religious texts such as the Bhagavad Gita, the Ramayana and the Upanishads.

The decision to confer the award on Gita Press was taken by a jury headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi after due deliberations on Sunday in recognition of the publishing house's "outstanding contribution towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violent and other Gandhian methods", the Culture Ministry said in a statement.

While recalling the contribution of Gita Press in promoting the Gandhian ideals of peace and social harmony, Mr. Modi observed that the conferment of the award was a recognition of the work done by the institution in community service.

The annual Gandhi Peace Prize was instituted in 1995 on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The award carries an amount of ₹1 crore, a citation, a plaque and an exquisite handicraft or handloom item.

The previous awardees include organisations such as the Indian Space Research Organisation, Ramakrishna Mission, Grameen Bank of Bangladesh, Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari and Sulabh International, New Delhi.

It has also been awarded to former President of South Africa Nelson Mandela, social worker Baba Amte, Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, environmentalist Chandi Prasad Bhatt and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman of Bangladesh.

Centenary year

Gita Press is one of the world's largest publishers, having published 41.7 crore books in 14 languages, including 16.21 crore Bhagavad Gita. It completes 100 years of its establishment in 2023. "The institution has never relied on advertisement in its publications, for revenue generation. Gita Press along with its affiliated organizations, strives for the betterment of life and the well-being of all," the Ministry said.

According to the official website of the Gita Press, the institution's main objective is to "promote and spread the principles of Sanatana Dharma, the Hindu religion among the general public by publishing Gita, Ramayana, Upanishads, Puranas, Discourses of eminent Saints and other character-building books and magazines and marketing them at highly subsidised prices".

Gandhi Prize to Gita Press a travesty, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday criticised the decision to award the Gandhi Peace Prize to Gita Press, calling it a travesty.

"There is a very fine biography from 2015 of this organisation by Akshaya Mukul in which he unearths the stormy relations it had with the Mahatma and the running battles it carried on with him on his political, religious & social agenda. The decision is really a travesty and is like awarding Savarkar and Godse," Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh tweeted.

Govt. to hold discussion on defence issues

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Issues such as developing a comprehensive approach towards national security, pushing domestic defence production and those pertaining to serving and retired armed forces personnel will be discussed at a brainstorming session beginning here on Monday, the Defence Ministry said.

Various issues faced by different Departments of the Ministry will be discussed at the two-day *chintan shivir* in New Delhi.

Congress suspends Ujjain unit president

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

The Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee on Sunday suspended its Ujjain city unit president, Ravi Bhadauria, after an audio clip surfaced, in which Mr. Bhadauria is allegedly heard saying that no Muslim leader would get election ticket from the city.

While Mr. Bhadauria has denied that the voice in the clip is his, the party issued a show-cause notice saying that going by the clip, his act amounted to indiscipline.

"The State Congress Committee will go through the reply, till then you are relieved of your current duties as president of the City Congress Committee with immediate effect," the party said in the notice.

The purported comment was made in reference to fellow Congress leader Noori Khan. It is learnt that on June 15, Ms. Khan met former Chief Minister and State Congress president Kamal Nath in Bhopal seeking ticket from Ujjain North, one of the seven Assembly constituencies in Ujjain. Responding to the audio clip, she said it was a serious matter but she would raise the issue in the party forum.

BJP terms it infighting

The BJP termed the development a sign of infighting in the Congress. "With the start of 'Kamal Nath Sandesh Yatra', ominous messages have started pouring in for the Congress...When Kamal Nath*ji* is not able to control Madhya Pradesh Congress, then why are you getting worried unnecessarily... Relax!," Ashish Agarwal, State media incharge of the BJP, tweeted.

Net direct tax collection rises 11.2% to ₹3.8 lakh crore, says Finance Ministry

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Net direct tax collections have risen 11.2% in the first two-and-a-half months of this financial year, with advance tax inflows for the first quarter of 2023-24 increasing 13.7%, the Finance Ministry said on Sunday.

As of June 17, the gross direct tax kitty had grown 12.7% over the corresponding period last year to cross ₹4.19 lakh crore. Of the gross collections so far, advance tax accounted for ₹1,16,776 crore, while tax deducted at source was ₹2,71,849 crore. Inflows from self-assessment tax stood at ₹18,128 crore, while regular assessment yielded ₹9,977 crore.

Tax refund

With refunds of over ₹39,500 crore made to taxpayers, the net tax kitty since April 1 stood at almost ₹3.8 lakh crore. Notably, the tax refunds so far this fiscal are 30.1% higher than the corresponding period of 2022-23.

"The net direct tax collection of ₹3,79,760 crore includes corporation tax (CIT) at ₹1,56,949 crore (net of refund) and personal income tax (PIT), including securities transaction tax (STT) at ₹2,22,196 crore (net of refund)," the Ministry said.

Within the advance tax revenues, CIT accounted for ₹92,784 crore, while PIT payers paid in ₹23,991 crore.

Corporate Ministry to consult practitioners on MCA-21 glitches

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With the critical Corporate Affairs Ministry portal, MCA-21, still ridden with glitches, hampering everything from registration of new firms to routine filings by existing firms, the Ministry has decided to hold parleys on the challenges faced by industry.

"Stakeholders' consultations" on the issues related to the MCA-21 Version-3 portal will be steered by the Ministry's top official, Secretary Manoj Govil, with compliance practitioners in Chennai on Tuesday and Hyderabad on Wednesday.

A team from LTI Mindtree, the IT vendor responsible for developing the portal, will also be part of the meetings, where members of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and The Institute of Company Secretaries of India are expected to flag the functionalities that are deterring smooth filing of corporate reports.

More than two lakh jobs eliminated from PSUs: Rahul Gandhi

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Rahul Gandhi

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said that over two lakh jobs have been "eliminated" from Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), alleging that hopes of lakhs of youth are being "trampled upon" by the government for the benefit of a few "crony capitalist friends".

Mr. Gandhi said the PSUs used to be the pride of India and the dream of every youth for employment but today they were "not the priority of the government". "Employment in PSUs of the country has come down from 16.9 lakh in 2014 to only 14.6 lakh in 2022. Do jobs decrease in a progressing country? 1,81,127 jobs lost in BSNL; 61,928 in SAIL; 34,997 in MTNL; 29,140 in SECL; 28,063 in FCI; 21,120 in ONGC," he said in a tweet.

Mr. Gandhi also said those who made false promises of providing two crore jobs every year, instead of increasing the jobs, "eliminated" more than two lakh jobs.

"On top of this, almost doubled the contract recruitments. Is increasing contract employees not a way of taking away the constitutional right of reservation? Is this a conspiracy to privatise these companies?" he said.

Three held for murdering two women in Delhi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Two women were allegedly killed by a group of men in the high-security R.K. Puram area of Delhi early on Sunday morning.

The women, Pinky and Jyoti, were sisters. They were trying to save their brother, Lalit, from the attackers, who shot them, the police said, adding that three accused had been arrested.

According to a senior officer, the accused knew Mr. Lalit as they had borrowed ₹10,000 from him a while ago, which he had been asking them to return.

"He had approached them a few times for the past 15 days. Yesterday, he spoke to them and requested for the money again. The accused persons then attacked him," an officer said.

Bengal Governor opens control room for panchayat polls

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose has set up a control room at the Raj Bhavan to handle complaints of threats and intimidation ahead of the panchayat elections in the State. A statement from the Raj Bhavan described the control room as "Peace Room", which will refer it to the government and the State Election Commission (SEC) for action.

Since the notification of panchayat elections on June 8, seven political workers have been killed.

The development comes after the Governor visited Bhangar and Canning, areas in South 24 Parganas district that were rocked by violence during the nomination process.

While the Opposition parties welcomed the initiative, Trinamool Congress leaders said the Governor was exceeding his powers. Citizens can approach the "Peace Room" by sending an email to *OSD2w.b.governor@gmail.com* or by calling 033-22001641.

Two killed

A BJP supporter was killed at Dinhata in Cooch Behar district on Saturday. The deceased, Sambhu Das, was the brother-in-law of Visakha Das, a BJP candidate from Dasgram gram panchayat.

On Saturday, a Trinamool candidate was also killed in Malda district. Since the notification of election, three persons have been killed at Bhangar alone.

Opposition candidates continued to claim they were being threatened to withdraw nominations.

Amid Manipur unrest, spike in trafficking of drugs in Mizoram

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The unrest in adjoining Manipur appears to have led to a spike in the trafficking of drugs and other contraband items in Mizoram.

Both the States have been conduits of drug trade from Myanmar and beyond in eastern and southeastern Asia. Traffickers have often used the areas along the Moreh-Sugnu axis in Manipur and the Zokhawthar-Kolasib axis in Mizoram.

But since May 3, when violence broke out in Manipur, trafficking of heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine and cannabis, apart from areca nuts and foreign cigarettes, has registered a spike in Mizoram.

Records with the Mizoram Police and other government agencies said the security forces in Mizoram seized contraband from traffickers on 21 instances between May 5 and June 14. These items were worth ₹78.19 crore in the grey market. Three more cases of seizure of cocaine and heroin in Bangladesh and Meghalaya had a Mizoram connection.

A Myanmar national Lalsangliana was arrested from Aizawl for possessing 5.4 kg of methamphetamine worth ₹11 crore. About one lakh methamphetamine pills were also seized from a woman on May 23. A Myanmar national was also arrested from Aizawl for having heroin worth ₹2 crore concealed in 33 soap cases.

"The seizures are an outcome of stronger vigilance and intelligence network," a senior officer said.

The officials, however, did not rule out the possibility of Mizoram "becoming a victim" of shifting of drug trade from the routes in Manipur, blocked because of the ongoing unrest. "An analysis of these seizures point to Myanmar-linked drug traffickers avoiding Manipur and plying their illegal trade via Mizoram," an officer said.

Sakshi, Babita engage in war of words over wrestlers' stir

Sakshi accuses BJP leader of trying to use the protest by grapplers for selfish motives; Babita hits back saying that the Olympic medallist had become a puppet of the Congress party

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI:

Olympic medallist Sakshi Malik accused former wrestler and BJP leader Babita Phogat of siding with the government during their protest against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

Hitting back, Ms. Babita claimed that Ms. Malik has become a "Congress puppet". The WFI chief is facing sexual harassment allegations from wrestlers.

Ms. Malik and her husband Satyawart Kadian had on Saturday asserted that the wrestlers' protest was not politically motivated and in no way it was inspired by the Congress as it was BJP leaders Babita and Teerath Rana, who had helped them in taking police permission for the sit-in at Jantar Mantar.

On Sunday, quoting their Saturday video, Ms. Malik tweeted, "In the video [posted on Saturday], we had commented how Teerath Rana and Babita Phogat were trying to use wrestlers for their selfish motives and how when the wrestlers were in trouble, they opted to sit on the lap of the government. We are definitely in trouble, but the sense of humour should not become so weak that a joke cracked on the powerful could not be understood."

Slanging match: Wrestlers Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia with supporters during a protest march. FILE PHOTO

Ms. Babita tweeted a reply to Ms. Malik and said that she had nothing to do with their protest since she was against the agitation on road from day one.

"It pained me and also made me laugh when I saw the video posted by my younger sister and her husband. Let me make it clear that the letter, seeking police permission, does not carry my signature. I have nothing to do with that," she wrote, completely pulling herself away from the protest. She further wrote: "From day one, I was not in favour of any protest or demonstration. I had maintained that I have faith in the Prime Minister and the judiciary and the truth will come out.

Meanwhile, Mr. Rana denied the allegations that he had used the wrestlers for selfish motives. "The wrestlers came and met me and they told us that they were being exploited. We said we are with our sisters and daughters," Mr. Rana said in a video. The video was shared in the WhatsApp group that was created to disseminate information to media during protest. The video was later deleted from the group.

"Look, wrestlers are the pride of the nation and the respect of sportspersons is uppermost on the mind of the BJP, and I also respect them a lot," said Mr. Rana.

M.P. Cong. cautious on overtures from possible turncoats

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

> These leaders have been told quite clearly that their request will be entertained only if the local unit of the Congress gives a report that it is essential for winning in their area
> **SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER**

Senior Madhya Pradesh leader Baijnath Singh Yadav returned to the Congress from the BJP on June 14, but the Opposition party is in no mood to allow the unconditional return of more such leaders who deserted it in 2020, leading to the downfall of the Kamal Nath government. Those seeking to return will have to pass the test of acceptability of the party's district unit to which they belonged before joining the BJP, senior leaders said.

Mr. Yadav, considered close to Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and whose stronghold is Shivpuri, had switched over to the BJP in 2020 when several Congress MLAs changed sides and brought down the Kamal Nath-led Congress government in the State.

Three years down the line, the scene appears to be changing. With the Assembly election around the corner and the Congress having won the mayoral elections in Gwalior and Jabalpur last year, a feat accomplished after decades, many leaders who had moved to the BJP are seeking to return to the Opposition party in the State.

Report from local unit

"There have been overtures, but the Congress leadership in the State is clear that this is not going to be an indiscriminately applied amnesty. These leaders, many of whom were instrumental in stealing the mandate of the Congress in Madhya Pradesh, have been told quite clearly that their request will be entertained only if the local unit of the Congress in their district gives a report that it is essential for winning in their area," a senior leader said.

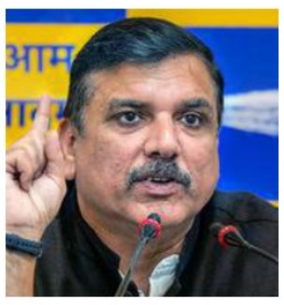
"Congress leadership is quite aware that a lot of this outreach just before election is because of positioning, if one is anticipating that one might not get ticket, etc. So all such requests for a *ghar wapsi* [return to home] are being treated with caution," the source said.

A senior leader pointed out that as recently as last month, Ministers Gopal Bhargava and Govind Singh Rajput, along with Pradeep Lariya and Shailendra Jain, MLAs, had spoken out against Minister Bhupendra Singh, who is considered close to Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Their complaint was that Mr. Singh was throwing his weight around in their constituencies.

"The Congress on the other hand is united this time and seeking a clear majority," said the source.

BJP expanding its 'factory of hatred': AAP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Sanjay Singh

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) continued to attack the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over the ongoing violence in Manipur. It charged the party with "perpetuating strife among Kukis and Meiteis".

AAP MP Sanjay Singh questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's silence over the issue and said that the BJP was expanding its "factory of hatred" throughout the country.

Mr. Singh alleged that the BJP's influence has resulted in divisions and conflicts across the nation.

"They fuel disputes under the guise of Hindu-Muslim, Hindu-Sikh and Hindu-Christian clashes. When they run out of ideas to create religious tensions, they exploit caste differences and ignite hatred amongst Jats, Marathas and Adivasis, pitting communities against each other. They perpetuate strife among Kukis and Meiteis etc.," he said.

"When the BJP plants the seeds of hatred, it affects all Indians," he said.

The AAP demanded that the Prime Minister prioritise "pressing issues at the grassroots level" over foreign tours and take immediate action to address the violence in the northeastern State.

RSS appeals for peace in strife-hit Manipur

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Almost 45 days after violence erupted in Manipur, the RSS on Sunday appealed for peace in the northeastern State.

RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale said the Sangh stood with the displaced persons and other victims during this period of terrible grief. He appealed to everyone to overcome the trust deficit.

"It requires comprehensive efforts from both communities. It can be resolved by addressing the sense of insecurity among the Meiteis and genuine concerns of the Kukis simultaneously," he said.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(Gati Shakti/ Madurai)
E-Tender Notice No GS-MDU-14A-2023 dated 15.06.2023
For and on behalf of The President of India, the Chief project Manager, Gati Shakti, Southern Railway, Madurai-625 016 invites e- tender for the work as per Notice inviting Tender(NIT) in our portal **www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderers/Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted.
Tender closing date for Item No.1 to 4 on 10.07.2023 at 15.00Hrs

Sl. No.	Tender No	Name of Work
1	GS-MDU-2023-05C-01	**Madurai Division Ambasamudram Railway Station**- Improvements to Entry & Exit arches, circulating area, Parking area under "AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME". **Approximate cash value in Lakhs:** ₹ 166.25; **Bid Security / EMD in** ₹ 233100; **Period of completion in Month(s):** Five.
2	GS-MDU-2023-05C-02	**Madurai Division Ambasamudram Railway Station** -Improvements to station buildings, facade and platform under "AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME". **Approximate cash value in Lakhs:** ₹ 233.75; **Bid Security / EMD in** ₹ 266900; **Period of completion in Month(s):** Five.
3	GS-MDU-2023-09B-01	**Madurai Division Punalur Railway Station**-Improvements to Entry & Exit arches, circulating area, Parking area under "AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME" **Approximate cash value in Lakhs:** ₹ 144.44; **Bid Security / EMD in** ₹ 222200; **Period of completion in Month(s):** Five.
4	GS-MDU-2023-09B-02	**Madurai Division Punalur Railway Station** -Improvements to station building. facade. platforms under "AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME" **Approximate cash value in Lakhs:** ₹ 298.69; **Bid Security / EMD in** ₹ 299400; **Period of completion in Month(s):** Five.

For further details, refer to web site portal **www.ireps.gov.in**
It is responsibility of the tenderer to check any Corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in the website, the same shall be taken into account while submitting tender.
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(A GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU UNDERTAKING)
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SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender Ref.No:34/2023-24, Supply of Manpower to various departments at Ariyalur Cement Works, Ariyalur District. T.N.
Est. Value: **Rs.18 Crore per annum**
EMD- Rs.10,00,000/-
Submission of tender: Up to 3.00 P.M. on 03.07.2023
Important Note:
A pre-bid meeting will be held on **23.06.2023** at **3.00 PM** at TANCEM, Registered Office, 5th Floor, AavinIllam, No.3A, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Salai, Nandanam, Chennai-600 035 The Tender document can be downloaded from **www.tntenders.gov.in**
Corrigendum / Addendum to this publication, if any would appear only on the above said website.
DIPR/3121/TENDER/2023 **COMPANY SECRETARY**
சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம். சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்.

Central Coalfields Limited
"A Miniratna Company"
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NOTICE
All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd. **www.coalindia.in/** respective Subsidiary Company (CCL, **www.centralcoalfields.in),** CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in** in addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in**

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Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700091
CIN: U40109WB2007SGC113473, www.wbsedcl.in
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
e-Tender-cum-e-Reverse Auction No. **WBSEDCL/PT&P/e-NIT/02(RPO)/2023** date: **19.06.2023** is invited by the Chief Engineer (PT&P), WBSEDCL, Vidyut Bhavan, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700091 for purchase of power from renewable sources for meeting RPO (non solar) from **1st July, 2023** to **31st March, 2024** through Traders/Licensees/Bidders. Interested parties may download the tender documents from the website **https://www.mstcecommerce.com** directly with the help of Digital Signature Certificate from **11:00 hrs.** of **19.06.2023** and submit the same on or before **17:00 hrs.** of **23.06.2023**. **ICA- T12475(4)/2023**
For details, visit **www.wbsedcl.in**

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NOTICE INVITING BID
Design and Construction of Bridge BR-4 & BR-5 on Gadhi river for Eastern Connectivity to Navi Mumbai International Airport under NMIA Project.
CIDCO of Maharashtra Limited through the process of E-tendering invites **"ON LINE" Lump sum Bids** in two bid system (Part-I Technical Bid & Part-I! Commercial Bid) from experienced prospective bidders fulfilling the mandatory eligibility criteria and scoring minimum qualifying marks of 75 in the Technical bid evaluation, comprising of total 100 marks as per Annexure-I, registered with CIDCO Ltd. or with Central Govt., or with State Govt. of Maharashtra and its undertakings in appropriate class & Category, who have completed work of similar nature as define below for the work mentioned below:

1. Name of Work: Design and Construction of Bridge BR-4 & BR-5 on Gadhi river for Eastern Connectivity to Navi Mumbai International Airport under NMIA Project. 2. C.A. No.: 10/CIDCO/EE(AP-IV)/2022-24 **3. Block Approval:** ₹293.87 Crores (Approx.) (excluding GST) **4. E.M.D.:** ₹2.94 Crores **5.Registration Class**: Class - IA (Without Limit) **6. Completion Period:** 1095 (One Thousand Ninety Five) Days i.e. 36 (Thirty Six Months) (including Monsoon) which includes: 1) 180 (One Hundred eighty) Day's for Design, Proof Checking & its Approval and Statutory Clearances. 2) 915 (Nine Hundred Fifteen) Days for Construction and handover of Project. **7. Tender Processing Fee:** ₹70,800/- (including 18% GST (Non-Refundable))

Bid Document along with Bidding Programme will be available on the website https://mahatenders.gov.in from 20/06/2023 at 17.01 hrs.

Superintending Engineer (Airport)
CIDCO/PR/148/2023-24
CIN - U99999 MH 1970 SGC-014574
www.cidco.maharashtra.gov.in

13th **Anniversary**

Shri R. Deivendran
Birth : 22.11.1945 **Death:** 19.6.2010

The torch that he ignited was the illumination of our success and we have pledged to keep marching forward on the pathway he initiated leading to glory.

DEVENDRAN GROUP OF COMPANIES
Devendran Coal International Pvt.Ltd., Chennai, Coimbatore & Mumbai
Apoorva Logistics Pvt.Ltd., Chennai
Devendran Plastic Pvt.Ltd., Sivakasi and Coimbatore
R.K.Deivendra NadarTrust Coimbatore
Deivam Pharma Distributors Coimbatore

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Palakkad Division
For and on behalf of The President of India, the Senior Divisional Materials Manager (Stores Branch) Southern Railway Palghat Division Invites attention to this Office E-Tender for the supply of under mentioned Stores, **E.Tender number: 91/23/5256** with AMC condition as per tender.
Description of Stores: Hospital wares and equipments - Ultrasound Machine. Detailed specification enclosed with in the Tender.
Quantity: 1 Nos
Due date: 10-JULY-23
Consignee: CMS/RH/PGT
Tender closing and opening date and time 10-JULY-23 14:30hrs.
For further details, please refer to web portal **www.ireps.gov.in**>E-tTender>stores>View Tenders.
Please note that only online quotations are accepted and offers are to be digitally signed.
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailways

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invite tenders in Two Stage Tender System from Eligible Contractors for the below mentioned works.

Name of Work	Amount Put to Tender EMD
Office of The Chief Engineer (Project), 3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.	
No. BWSSB/CE(P)/ACE(Cstr&DCW)/TA-2/365/2023-24	**Date: 15.06.2023**
Procurement of 2000MTS of Alum Grade IV conforming to IS:299/2012 with its latest amendments	**Rs. 4,91,14,000/-** / **Rs. 7,36,710/-**
Last date and time for Receipt of tenders will be on **03.07.2023 before 16.00 hrs**. The bids will be opened on : **05.07.2023 at 12.00 hrs**. **Sd/- Chief Engineer (Project)**	
Office of The Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore - 560009.	
No. BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-I/DCE(M)-I/TA(S)/762/2023-24	**Date: 14.06.2023**
Work of Providing 600 mm dia MS feeder line inplace of leaky 24" CI (Old) line along BG Road from Jayadev East side gate upto Sagar Apolo Gate coming under Jayanagar 4th T Block S/stn, of AEES- 2-1 sub division.	**Rs. 130.71 Lakhs** / **Rs. 2.32 Lakhs**
Last date and time for Receipt of tenders will be on: **03.07.2023 upto 15.00 hrs**. Date of Opening of tender: **05.07.2023 after 16.00 hrs**. **Sd/- Chief Engineer (South)**	
The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours. **DIPR/CP/306/Zenkar/2023-24**	

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No: SA-GSU-OT-E-2023-22-25
For and on behalf of the President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager/Electrical/Salem Division, Salem-5 Invites E-Tender for the under mentioned works. Online bids only will be accepted. For detailed NIT, qualification criteria, bidding document, tender submission etc. can be viewed/downloaded from website portal **www.ireps.gov.in.**

E-Tender Notice No, Date and Name of Work	Details
1) SA-GSU-OT-E-2023-22 Dt 16.06.2023 SA Division - Provision of Soft Upgrades to Udhagamandalam (UAM) Railway stations under ABSS.	Approx. cost- Rs. 2556546.00/- EMD - Rs. 51100.00/- Completion Period - 6 Months
2) SA-GSU-OT-E-2023-23 Dt 16.06.2023 SA Division - Provision of Soft Upgrades to Coonoor (ONR) Railway stations under ABSS.ss	Approx. cost- Rs. 3273963.00/- EMD - Rs. 65500.00/- Completion Period - 6 Months
3) SA-GSU-OT-E-2023-24 Dt 16.06.2023 SA Division - Provision of Soft Upgrades to Erode Jn (ED) Railway stations under ABSS- Electrical arrangement	Approx. cost - Rs. 4025346.00/- EMD Rs. 80500.00/- Completion Period - 6 Months
4) SA-GSU-OT-E-2023-25 Dt 16.06.2023 SA Division - Provision of Soft Upgrades to Tiruppur(TUP) and Tirupattur(TPT) Railway stations under ABSS - Electrical arrangements.	Approx. cost- Rs. 12309596.00/- EMD Rs. 211600.00/- Completion Period - 6 Months
For all the works Closing Time & Date: 15.00hrs. on 10.07.2023	
For all the works Bids Opening Time & Date: 15.00hrs. on 10.07.2023	
All Addendum/ Corrigendum, Time extension, Clarifications, etc. will be uploaded in the website portal **www.ireps.gov.in.** only and will not be published separately in Newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.	

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INBRIEF

Uddhav targets Modi over U.S. visit amid Manipur violence

Launching a broadside against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, former Maharashtra Chief Minister and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday criticised the PM for scheduling a tour of the U.S. instead of trying to defuse the situation in violence-racked Manipur. Mr. Thackeray warned the BJP that they could never come to power by fostering communal riots in the State and across the country. "PM Modi is willing to go to America and give advice, but cannot visit Manipur. He brags about allegedly stopping the Russia-Ukraine war, but I want to see if he can calm Manipur down," said Mr. Thackeray.

DU student stabbed to death outside college campus

A 19-year-old Delhi University student was allegedly stabbed to death by a group of students on Sunday afternoon. A few days ago, the victim, Nikhil Chauhan, allegedly had an altercation with them for misbehaving with his female friend, the police said. Nikhil was a first-year student of BA (Hons) political science at the School of Open Learning (SOL) at Aryabhatta College. According to DCP (South West) Manoj C., on Sunday, the accused met Nikhil outside the college gate and allegedly stabbed him. He was declared brought dead at the hospital, the police said. They added that a case under IPC Section 302 (murder) has been registered against the accused, who have been identified.

States look for alternatives as Centre restricts FCI purchase

Move to reduce quantity of foodgrains to be purchased under OMSS is aimed at curbing inflation, says Centre; Opposition says the government is hurting the most marginalised sections of society

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Even as the Union Food Ministry maintained that its recent decision to reduce the quantity of foodgrains a bidder can purchase under the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) is to curb inflation, several States ruled by non-BJP parties have started taking steps to ensure supply of foodgrains to be distributed under the Public Distribution System but not covered under the National Food Security Act.

The Centre recently decided that the quantity that a bidder can purchase in a single bid under the OMSS (D) from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) will range from 10-100 tonnes. Earlier, the maximum quantity allowed was 3,000 tonnes per bid for a buyer. "The quantities have been reduced this time to accommodate more small and marginal buyers and to ensure wider reach of the scheme. This will facilitate the release of stocks sold under OMSS(D) to reach the general public immediately," the Centre said in a press note.

Wider reach: The Centre recently said the purchase quantities had been reduced to accommodate more small and marginal buyers. PTI

The Opposition parties have questioned this. "By forcing the FCI to discontinue the sale of wheat and rice to States through its OMSS, the Modi government is hurting the most marginalised sections of society. How petty must the PM be to take out his frustrations from his Karnataka loss on the people," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said. He, however, maintained that the Karnataka government will ensure 'Anna Bhagya' guarantee is implemented and 10 kg of free foodgrains is provided to poor families.

Tamil Nadu is trying to purchase 50,000 tonnes of rice from government agencies other than the FCI. "We get 2,74,00 tonnes of rice from the Government of India. To manage the supplies, we were buying from OMSS at a rate of about ₹35 for a kilo of rice and then subsidising it. Now, the Union government has stopped the supply under OMSS. We have to find an alternative. It has stopped the supply of 23,000 tonnes of wheat. We have to procure this stock from the open market," a senior government functionary of Tamil Nadu said.

Policy blamed

Kerala is planning legal steps against the Centre's food distribution policy. "The Centre's assurance of ensuring adequate foodgrains for the State is not maintained now. We will take all possible steps against this," a State Food Department official said, adding that the State does not procure foodgrains from OMSS. "We were recently offered pulses through OMSS. We are yet to take a call,"he added.

The Centre had said that in recent years, production of agriculture crops was affected due to untimely rain, rise in temperature in March and so on. "Therefore, the stocks available with the FCI are released in a judicious manner under the OMSS(D) by the Government of India while ensuring that the overall stock position is maintained at a comfortable level.

To ensure that the inflationary trends are kept under control while ensuring adequate stock levels in the Central pool, it has been decided to exclude State governments from the ambit of OMSS(D), as per the revised Policy dated June 13, 2023," the Centre's note said. The Centre had announced the policy on June 13 and communicated to FCI with copy to all States governments.

JEE Advanced 2023: IIT-Hyderabad zone students top rank list

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A total of 43,773 candidates have cleared this year's Joint Entrance Examination (JEE), Advanced for admission to undergraduate engineering, science and architecture courses at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). In all, 1,80,372 candidates had appeared for the examination this year.

Vavilala Chidvilas Reddy of the IIT-Hyderabad zone stood first on the common rank list. He obtained 341 out of 360 marks.

Nayakanti Naga Bhavya Sree of the same zone is the top-ranked woman candidate with a rank of 56. She obtained 298 out of 360 marks, the release said.

The IIT-Guwahati, the organising institute of the examination, said in a release that out of the total qualified candidates, 7,509 are women.

Six of the top 10 rank holders are from the IIT-Hyderabad zone.

Ramesh Surya Theja (Hyderabad) and Rishi Kalra (Roorkee) secured the second and third ranks, respectively.

Raghav Goyal (Roorkee), Addagada Venkata Sivaram (Hyderabad),

Vavilala Chidvilas Reddy

Prabhav Khandelwal (Delhi), Bikkina Abhinav Chowdhary (Hyderabad), Malay Kedia (Delhi), Nagireddy Balaaji Reddy (Hyderabad) and Yankanti Pani Venkata Maneedhar Reddy (Hyderabad) are the other students in the top 10 list.

The most number of candidates have qualified from the Hyderabad zone (10,432 students) followed by Delhi (9,290) and Bombay (7,957).

In all, 174 students from the Hyderabad zone found place in the top 500, followed by 120 from the Delhi zone and 103 from the Bombay zone. A total of 13 foreign candidates and 155 Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) have also cleared the exam.

The examination was held on June 4. The Joint Seat Allocation (JoSAA) counselling will begin from Monday.

BJP MP wants Baghel to ban *Adipurush* in Chhattisgarh

Press Trust of India
RAIPUR

Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Renuka Singh said she was hopeful that Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel would ban the film *Adipurush* in the State.

The Lok Sabha member for Surguja, Chattisgarh said the sentiments of crores of people had been hurt by the portrayal of the characters of Lord Ram, Mata Janki and Lord Hanuman in the film, apart from the dialogues.

Mr. Baghel on Saturday alleged that an attempt was made to tarnish the image of Lord Ram and Lord Hanuman in the movie, and said the Congress government may consider banning it in the State on public demand.

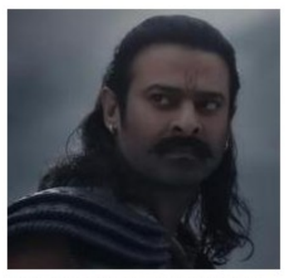
Adipurush writer says he will revise dialogues that hurt sentiments of public

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Adipurush dialogue writer Manoj Muntashir Shukla on Sunday said the makers of the film have decided to "revise some of the dialogues", after the Prabhas-starrer was criticised heavily for its "pedestrian" language.

Mr. Shukla, who has written the Hindi dialogues and songs of the retelling of the Ramayana, said the amended lines would be added to the film by this week.

In a statement shared on his official Twitter account, Mr. Shukla said: "...For me, there is nothing greater than your feelings. I can give countless arguments in favour of my dialogues, but this will not lessen your pain. Me and the producer-director of the film have decided that we will revise some of the dialogues which are hurting you and they will be added to the film this week."



A still from the film *Adipurush*

The film has been panned on social media over its poor VFX and colloquial dialogues, with Mr. Shukla under fire for Lord Hanuman's dialogues in the "Lanka *dahan*" sequence and others. Many viewers and political party leaders alleged that oversimplified language were used by the characters, especially Bajrang (Hanuman).

Ban in Kathmandu

Meanwhile, Mayor of Nepalese capital Kathmandu, Balendra Shah, on Sunday ordered all cinema halls in the city to stop screening of Hindi films. The order came three days after he gave an ultimatum to the makers of *Adipurush*, urging them to delete a portion in the film where a dialogue refers to Sita as the "daughter of India".

"No Indian film will be allowed to be screened in Kathmandu municipality area till the time this objectionable part is removed from the film," Mr. Shah said in an announcement.

(With inputs from Kallol Bhattacherjee)

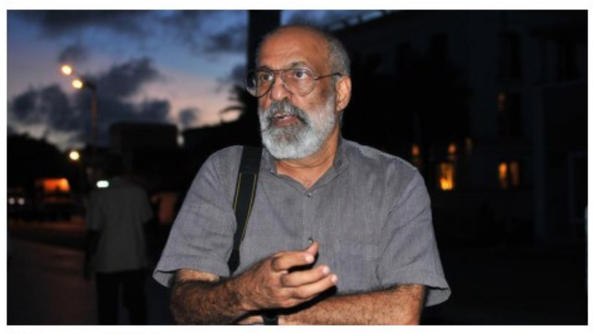
Veteran cinematographer Navroze Contractor passes away at 79

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Veteran cinematographer, photographer and writer Navroze Contractor passed away near Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu after a motorbike accident on Sunday. He was 79.

Mr. Contractor had many award-winning documentaries to his credit and received accolades for his work as cinematographer in feature films such as *Duvidha*, *22nd June 1897*, *Limited Manuski, Devi Ahilya Bai, Percy, Love in the Time of Malaria, Devarakadu, Pehla Adhyay, Lalach* and *Frames*.

Ballad of Pabu, Dreams of the Dragon's Children, Are you listening?, Last House in Bombay, All in the Family, Famine 87, The Open Frame are some of the documentaries shot by Mr. Contractor. He was also the cinematographer for almost all the films made by Deepa Dhanraj, including *What Has Happened to this City?, Something like a War, The Legacy of Malthus, The Advocate, Invoking Justice and We Have Not Come Here to Die. He directed two documentaries – Bharat Parikrama on his tour of India in 2005 along with two fellow motorcycle enthusiasts and Jhadu Katha (on brooms).*



Navroze Contractor

Mr. Contractor held several still photograph exhibitions in India and abroad. His photographs of jazz musicians are in the collection of the Smithsonian Museum, Washington DC. His photographs of artist Bhupen Khakhar are in the collection of Tate Modern, London. His most recent collection of photographs chronicled the dying culture of wrestling in Indian *akharas*. He regularly held photography and film workshops in universities and institutions, including the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune.

A motorbike enthusiast, he wrote regularly and contributed columns for special interest magazines on automobiles and bikes. His first book, *The Dreams of the Dragon's Children*, is based on his film-making experiences in China in 1984.

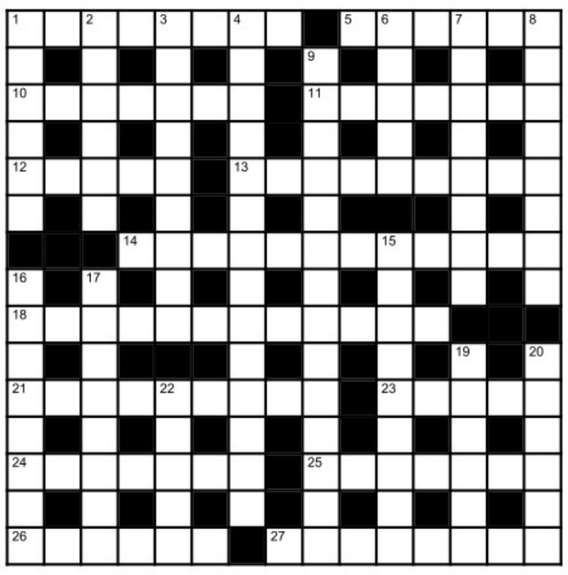
He grew up in Ahmedabad and obtained a BA (fine arts) degree in painting and photography at M.S. University, Baroda. His interest in cinema took him to the FTII, Pune, where he studied direction and cinematography. He studied photography with Bhupendra Karia and advanced cinematography with Laszlo Kovacs in the U.S. He later pursued video production at the Sony Corporation in Tokyo.

TH CROSSWORD + 13895

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Troubled Monroe consuming drugs again (4,4)
5 One gets cold with swiftness, going round frozen polar region (3,3)
10 Ex-convict following judge outside department - it's a sign of danger (3,4)
11 Hustlers leaving hotel, disguised in overcoats (7)
12 Extremely saintly professor backing ecclesiastical council (5)
13 Blunt chat with intern carelessly ignoring patient at centre (9)
14 Fellow performed at clubs in casinos around American city (3,9)
18 Deceive with subtlety, finding right position to receive football perhaps (7,5)
21 Singer in dance party getting a little addled on grass in retreat (9)
23 Language in revolutionary play, ironic (5)
24 Operatic solo featuring American tenor in European country (7)
25 Greenish mineral with round shape containing iodine and vanadium (7)
26 Stop in quaint side street (6)
27 No one fishing around stream for fish (8)

Down

1 Move forward! Prince killed female monster (6)
2 Jazz fan welcomes extremely divine number having rhythm (6)
3 Excessively emotional behaviour of silly old male having drink (9)
4 How edges might fly to slips immediately (5,3,3,3)
6 Church conducting very revolutionary catholic function (5)
7 Crack cocaine and dope consumed by revolutionary endlessly (8)
8 Medicine saves lives, reversing condition (8)
9 Frantically all ran up - furore in departure lounge! (7,7)
15 Interest in Sicily tour sadly lessened by onset of lockdown (9)
16 Son at British pub grabbed by rogue, one holding a bladed weapon (8)
17 Reviews fantastic essay about sodium by student (8)
19 One seen on beach manoeuvring minibike naked (6)
20 Worthless person in bed, slyly ensnaring a good girl (3,3)
22 Collar rascal stealing rich tapestry (5)

SUDOKU

			4	3	6		9	
	3		9			4		
		1					7	6
5							3	
9			3		7			8
	1							4
2	7					9		
		6			9		8	
	8		7	5	2			

No.SS5827 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

P	D	L	K	S	M	E	S	
E	P	I	C	U	R	E	Y	E
A	R	D	O	T	A	E	M	T
P	R	G	O	H	O	T	S	P
O	T	H	E	A	V	E	H	O
E	E	L	I	S	W	P	N	E
R	V	E	C	E	L	L	C	R
A	V	E	F	I	H	Y	R	B
E	N	E	F	I	T	S	H	I
K	S	E	S	A	O	I	A	N
C	O	N	I	C	T	U	G	S
O	F	W	A	R	K	E	I	T
O	E	F	I	S	H	E	Y	E
A	P	P	A	R	E	L	I	U
N	R	L	O	S	I	R	E	C
Y	C	L	E	I	M	P	R	E
S	S	E	H	Y	D	E	E	N

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	2	1	7	6	9	5	8	4
7	4	8	3	2	5	1	9	6
9	6	5	1	4	8	3	7	2
1	3	4	2	8	7	9	6	5
6	5	7	9	3	4	2	1	8
8	9	2	6	5	1	4	3	7
4	7	3	8	1	2	6	5	9
5	8	6	4	9	3	7	2	1
2	1	9	5	7	6	8	4	3

FAITH

Quest for knowledge

Most of the puranas and itihasas have been written as an outcome of a dialogue in question-answer format between a guru and a seeker of knowledge. Sri Ramayana has been written by Valmiki who enquired initially with sage Narada. Sri Vishnupurana has come as an answer to a question. In Srimad Bhagavatham, Parikshit asked several questions which were answered by sage Sukha. Maithreya asked various doubts and were all clarified by Sri Parasara Maharshi.

Akkarakani Srinidhi swamy said in a discourse that we have to be in search of good and learned scholars to seek knowledge. The emphasis is not only on the teacher but the disciples also should be equally inquisitive and curious enough. We have to wait for the right time to ask the guru. Sri Vedanta Desika says that we have to clarify our doubts with the teacher at an appropriate time (*prasna kala pratheekshe*). Lord Krishna says in the Bhagavad Gita chapter 4 sloka 34 "*Tatviddhi Pranipathena*" – learn by prostration, questioning and service. The wise who have realised the truth will instruct the knowledge.

Indra, the chief of celestials, and Virochana, the chief of Asuras, approached Brihaspati – the guru of celestials – and asked him about "*Aatman*". The acharya told them to bring a vessel filled with pure water and see their face in it. Then the acharya asked what they saw. They replied it was the reflective image of their face. The acharya told them: "that is you". Virochana thought that was his physical body but began pondering over it. Indra thought, "There should be something beyond." He enquired further with the acharya to realise the "*Aatman*".

VIENNA

Austria Police arrest three youth for planned attack on pride parade

REUTERS

The Austrian Police arrested three youngsters, including a 14-year-old, for allegedly planning an attack at Vienna's pride parade, which drew hundreds of thousands of people, officials said on Sunday. The accused aged 14, 17 and 20, suspected of being Islamic State (IS) sympathisers, were held ahead of the parade. AFP

ISLAMABAD

New Bill on disqualification period is to help Nawaz: Pak. Opposition

AP

Pakistan's Senate has passed a Bill to ensure no parliamentarian is disqualified for a lifetime, a move termed by the Opposition as an attempt to clear the way for former Premier Nawaz Sharif's to take part in the upcoming elections. After being disqualified n 2017, Mr. Sharif became ineligible to hold public office for life in 2018. PTI

BAMAKO

Mali junta's referendum on draft Constitution hints at power change

AFP

Malians voted on whether to back a draft Constitution drawn up by the governing junta which has fuelled speculation that the country's strongman ruler will seek election. The referendum on the new text is the first electoral test for leader Colonel Assimi Goita, who has vowed to return the country to civilian rule in 2024. AFP

KATHMANDU

At least two killed, 26 missing in Nepal floods and landslips

AFP

At least two people were killed and 26 others went missing as floods and landslips triggered by the monsoon wreaked havoc in eastern Nepal. A man was found dead and 21 others working at the under-construction Super Hewa Hydropower Project in Chainpur Municipality-4 have gone missing. PTI

Blinken arrives in Beijing as U.S. and China look to mend fractured ties

Both sides emphasise the importance of maintaining open channels of communication; Beijing calls for more exchanges including mutual visits by students, businesspeople; it describes Taiwan as the most pronounced risk in their relationship

Ananth Krishnan

Antony Blinken landed in Beijing on Sunday in the first visit by a U.S. Secretary of State in five years, as the world's two biggest powers attempt to manage an increasingly fractious relationship.

Mr. Blinken and Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang held talks on Sunday for several hours before a working dinner. Mr. Blinken said following the talks that both sides "discussed how we can responsibly manage the relationship between our two countries through open channels of communication". They emphasised "the importance of diplomacy and maintaining open channels of communication across the full range of issues to reduce the risk of misperception and miscalculation," State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said.

Ties reset: U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets with China's Foreign Minister Qin Gang in Beijing on Sunday. REUTERS

A Chinese statement said that an agreement was reached on encouraging more exchanges, including on increasing passenger flights, and more mutual visits by students, scholars and businesspeople. "Both sides agreed to jointly implement the important common understandings reached by the two Presidents in Bali, effectively manage differences, and advance dialogue, exchanges and cooperation," the Chinese Foreign Ministry said, adding that "both sides agreed to maintain high-level interactions" and Mr. Blinken invited the Chinese Foreign Minister to the U.S.

Taiwan question

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said Mr. Qin also "expounded on China's firm position and raised clear demands on the Taiwan question and other core interests and major concerns" describing the Taiwan issue as "the most consequential issue and the most pronounced risk in the China-U.S. relationship".

A breakthrough is not expected in any of the key issues recently straining ties, from Taiwan and trade to the South China Sea and human rights. That the visit is taking place is, in of itself, being seen by both sides as a sign of much-needed progress.

A meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping could take place on Monday which could pave the way for U.S. President Joe Biden to meet with the Chinese President later this year. The G-20 Summit in New Delhi in September could provide the platform for their first meeting since Bali.

Israel's Netanyahu to move ahead with judicial reforms

Reuters
JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday he would pursue "active steps" on a contested judicial overhaul this week after what he described as months of wasteful compromise talks with the political Opposition.

Mr. Netanyahu's televised remarks to his Cabinet were spare on detail and come after Opposition leaders last week suspended negotiations pending the formation of a key panel for selecting judges.

Unveiled soon after Mr. Netanyahu's religious-nationalist coalition took power in late December, the sweeping reforms would roll back some Supreme Court powers and give the government more control over appointments to the Bench. The proposed legislation had set off unprecedented street protests earlier this year.

Hasty decision: Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, centre, attends a weekly Cabinet meeting in Jerusalem on Sunday. REUTERS

"We gave a month and then another month and then another month – three months. Their (Opposition) representatives did not agree to the most basic understandings. The intention was just to waste time," Mr. Netanyahu said.

"We will meet this week and commence active steps ... in a way commensurate with the mandate we were given," he said.

Lapid's remarks

But Opposition leader Yair Lapid suggested Mr. Netanyahu could not be certain of a majority, after some members of the coalition voted in a secret ballot last week in favour of an Opposition lawmaker joining the Judicial Appointments Committee.

Zaporizhzhia village under Kyiv's control: Russia official

Reuters

A Russian-installed official acknowledged on Sunday that Ukraine had recaptured a village in the southern Zaporizhzhia region, its first gain on that front since it launched its counter-offensive earlier this month.

The official, Vladimir Rogov, said Ukrainian forces had taken the settlement of Piatykhatky and were entrenching themselves there while coming under fire from Russian artillery.

"The enemy's 'wave-like' offensives yielded results, despite enormous losses," Mr. Rogov said on the Telegram messaging app.

Heavy fighting continues in the area, he added. There was no immediate comment from Ukraine, and Reuters could not independently confirm the situation on the battlefield.

Pakistan corruption watchdog summons Imran in land scam

Press Trust of India
LAHORE

Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan has been asked to appear before the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) of Punjab on Monday in connection with a case related to the purchase of over 5,000 kanals (625 acres) of land at throwaway prices through fraud.

The ACE has sent summonses to Mr. Khan, his sister Uzma Khan and her husband Ahad Majeed in the land corruption case in Layyah district in Pakistan's Punjab province , a spokesperson of the ACE said on Saturday.

Previous summons

Earlier, Mr. Khan was summoned by the ACE on June 16 but he did not appear before it. The summons was affixed at Mr. Khan's Zaman Park residence in Lahore, it said.

Imran Khan

The ACE has "clear evidence" of Mr. Khan's involvement in the Layyah corruption scandal, the spokesperson said, adding that pressure was exerted on revenue officials of Bani Gala - Mr. Khan's residence in Islamabad - for illegal transfer of land.

Ms. Uzma is accused of alleged fraud in the purchase of 5,261-kanal of land in Layyah district, reportedly worth billions of rupees, for a mere Rs 130 million. The ACE said that an FIR had been registered against the couple.

Indian-origin student charged with rape in U.K.

Press Trust of India
LONDON

A 20-year-old Indian-origin student has been sentenced to more than six years' imprisonment for raping an "intoxicated" woman while she was on a night out with friends last year in Wales.

CCTV Footage showed Preet Vikal carrying the "intoxicated" woman in his arms and across his shoulders through Cardiff city centre.

Vikal admitted rape and was sentenced to six years and nine months.

Vikal, an engineering student, came across the woman while she was on a night out with friends in Cardiff city centre.

Prosecutor Matthew Cobbe said the university student brought the victim to his room, despite the victim being unable to give consent, reported *The Sun* newspaper.

Sudan's warring Generals agree to 72-hour truce

Agence France-Presse
KHARTOUM

A 72-hour ceasefire between Sudan's warring generals took effect on Sunday to allow for the delivery of desperately needed aid to the country, on the eve of a humanitarian conference.

The Army led by Abdel Fattah al-Burhan has since April 15 been battling paramilitary forces commanded by his former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, after the two fell out in a bitter power struggle.

Pitched battle: A market area in the capital of the West Darfur region that was affected by the war in Sudan. AFP

Multiple truces have been agreed and broken in the war that has claimed the lives of more than 2,000 people and driven over two million from their homes, including at least 5,28,000 who fled abroad.

The latest ceasefire came into force at 6 a.m., with the mediators saying the two sides had agreed to allow freedom of movement and the delivery of humanitarian aid.

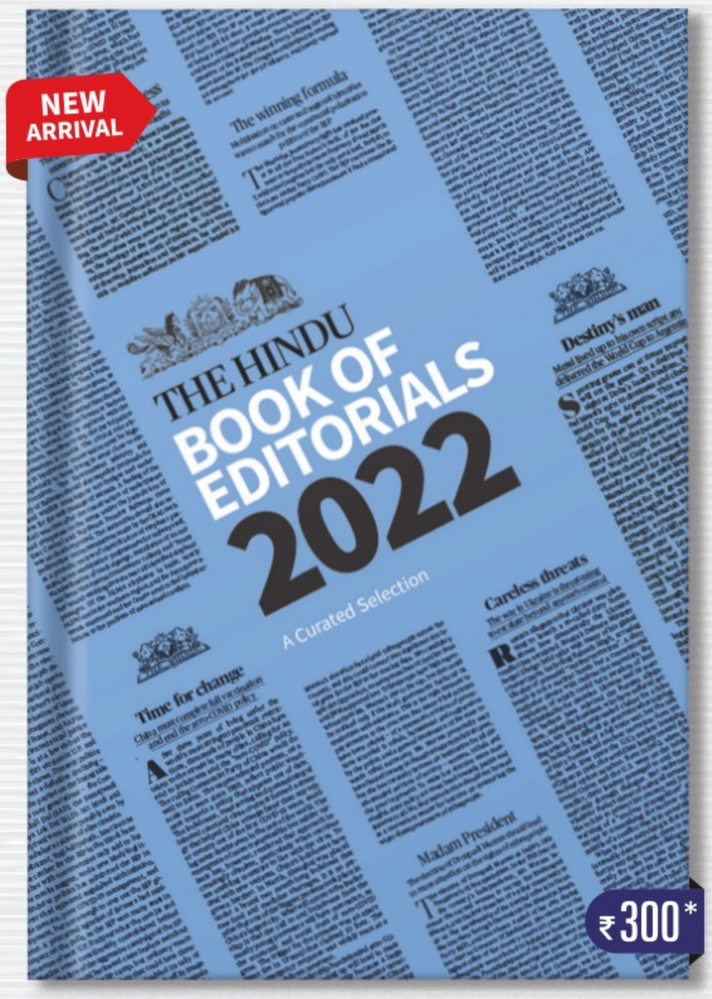
"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and United States of America announce the agreement of representatives of the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces on a ceasefire for a period of 72 hours," the Saudi Foreign Ministry said.

The United Nations will on Monday host an international donors' conference for Sudan in the Swiss city of Geneva.

THE HINDU GROUP

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

The Hindu Book of Editorials 2022
captures what made news in the year that passed, with a selection of editorials that were published in the editorial pages of India's national newspaper.



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ASKUS

Vidya Bala

Q I work in a private company and have two queries:
1) I would like to take a life insurance policy for my spouse with the LIC. But after the recent talks about the losses suffered by LIC and SBI pension fund, I am confused. Please suggest if HDFC, Tata or any other private insurers are reliable to opt?
2) On National Pension Scheme, if SBI fund is chosen, will SBI pension fund loss impact returns? Is there a need to shift to banks such as HDFC?
BALAJI

A I think you are talking about the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) for government employees and the news that funds from LIC and SBI suffered losses as underlying shares like Adani crashed some months ago. This has nothing to do with the insurance service they provide and more to do with the stocks they held under CPS. That is the very nature of investing in market-linked instruments. This has nothing to do with the efficacy of the insurance providers. Simply go with any large insurance provider for a simple term insurance policy (and not any fancied policy).
Check the coverage age, premium for sum assured in the event of death of the insured. Technically, there are various parameters such as solvency ratio, premium market share, claim ratio etc., to look at the quality of term insurance providers but it is suffice to say large players like Bajaj Allianz, LIC or Tata tick these reasonably well in terms of premium versus cover. You can go with one of them. We do not provide specific recommendations.
On NPS, again, they are market-linked and you should be willing to take the ups and downs. There is no cause for concern with the SBI NPS fund on the grounds you have mentioned. Others too suffer when large index stocks fall. Different NPS fund managers excel in equity and debt, and depending on your asset allocation, one would need to choose the fund manager.

Q I have ₹1 lakh with me which I am planning to invest for long term as a lump sum. Which could be the best instrument to invest? Which instrument provides good returns with zero or less tax liability. I am a 34-year-old salaried person.
VINEETH

A Expecting zero tax with good returns in your salaried phase of life is not quite practical! You can consider investing in PPF for moderate returns and safety with no tax as of now. Otherwise, consider bank FDs where rates are now attractive in some banks but with tax on interest. If you are looking at long-term growth in wealth and can handle temporary losses, then use SIPs to invest in an equity index fund like Nifty index. These will entail tax in the form of capital gains but that is nothing considering the growth potential in the long-term of 10 years or more.

Q I will turn 25 soon and earn ₹20,000 a month. I usually do stock market trading but am not proficient. I am confused about my financials and need guidance for an investment plan suited to me (like SIP MF or other option) How much should I invest from my salary?
KASHI GANGASAGRE

A It is good to have a core of your portfolio in sound, long-term investments like PPF and mutual funds. Start investing in PPF and SIP in index equity mutual funds based on Nifty, Nifty Midcap 150 and Nifty 500. How much to invest will depend on how much you can spare.
Try to invest at least 20-30% of your salary to begin with if you have some commitments, or invest more if your commitments are less. If you have dependents take a good term-insurance cover on your life and a health insurance policy. These should be the stepping stones for your financial journey. Do not allocate more than 3-5% of total investments to trading. As you embark on your career you may also find less time to trade actively. Hence, keep that at best a hobby with very small sums.
(The author is Co-founder, PrimeInvestor.in)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

The many parts to mis-selling!

Actively considering direct plans or having some element of DIY (do it yourself) or using a good dose of passive products is necessary if you wish to free yourself from industry's games

AMCS IN FOCUS

Vidya Bala

A recent video of a senior bank executive verbally abusing junior staff, asking them to sell 75 insurance policies a day received attention on social media.

Among other things, it also once again stirred the never-ending issue of mis-selling of financial products. While this furore may be related to insurance products, the same is equally true of mis-selling in mutual funds (MF).

> Recently, MF regulator, SEBI, has gone a step ahead in disclosing it is not just the intermediaries but the AMCs that may be encouraging some of the not- so-desirable practices

Mis-selling by intermediaries has been a long-standing debate in the industry. Recently, MF regulator, SEBI, has gone a step ahead in disclosing it is not just the intermediaries but the AMCs that may be encouraging some of the not-so-desirable practices.

In its recent MF consultation paper (May 2023) that aims at cost rationalisation in the industry, SEBI has provided insights into data that brings out the issues with the product manufacturer - AMC.

Let's look at these and what the message is for the investor, from these lesser-known facts.

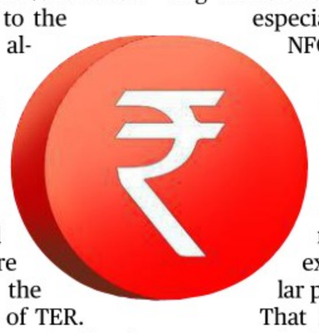
Higher expense

One of the observations that SEBI made in its paper is as follows: "Despite [the] presence of various MFs with significantly large AUMs in schemes which are oriented towards retail investors i.e., equity and hybrid schemes, the TER charged is mostly close to the prescribed regulatory limits. However, in [the] case of debt schemes, with investors being mostly corporates/institutional investors having bargaining power, the TER is much lower than the prescribed limit.

"Therefore, the benefit of economies of scale accruing in the debt schemes appears to be passed on to the investors but not so in the equity and hybrid schemes."

SEBI observed the weighted average total TER (total expense ratio) for equity schemes came to 2% (as opposed to the maximum allowed 2.25%, that too, on a slab basis).

The same was 1.88% for hybrid and 0.77% for debt (as opposed to the maximum allowed 2%)



What the above data means is retail-oriented equity and hybrid schemes are charged to the hilt in terms of TER. But the corporate-dominated debt schemes have TER much lower than the limit prescribed by SEBI.

Have you ever wondered why your RMs, or distributors, are actively marketing you only equity and hybrid schemes and less of debt? For the former products are considered 'retail'.

AMCs charge as much as they are allowed to and therefore encourage it to be sold to retail investors. No economies of scale is passed to retail investors, it appears.

But with debt schemes, given it caters largely to corporates/institutions (and large institutions can bargain their way into lower TER), the TER is far lower than SEBI prescribed limits. So, if you are given an equity-heavy portfolio even if your time frame and risk is low, you know the reason behind it is not just the intermediary. It is the AMC too! Does an AMC decide to sell products to investors based on TER or based on individual needs? Think about it.

The switching game

Let's look at another most popular mis-selling accusation made - that of churning investor's portfolios, especially during NFOs.

SEBI's data show 27% of the inflows into NFOs came from switches made from existing regular plans.

That is, investors were made to switch to NFOs from ongoing schemes. Overall, 93% of such switches came from regular plan while it was a negligible amount from direct plan.

Why do such switches happen? From your point of view, you might think that you moved to a fancied new theme with a ₹10 NAV. But did you know such NFOs in active schemes typically come with high TER? This because TERs are based on AUM slabs and an NFO does not collect very high inflows all at once. So, a lower AUM allows funds to charge higher TER for a good while until the AUM grows. And that means AMCs can incentivise their distributors to bring inflows to the higher TER schemes.

So, you know it's not just your distributor, it's the AMC too!

Of course, SEBI seeks to plus this by proposing that when there is a switch, the distributor will be eligible for commission that is the lower of the two funds involved. But bottom line is there is a clear AMC- distributor nexus.

These are but just a couple of examples. The lessons in this for retail investors are simple: you simply cannot outsource your investment decision entirely.

Understanding the financial ecosystem in which you operate is important; in the absence of this, you will see quiet wealth leakage. I know of many investors who do not know direct plans exist and that there are low-cost index funds available. Either actively considering direct plans or having some element of DIY (do it yourself) or using a good dose of passive products is necessary if you wish to free yourself from these games.

> Have you ever wondered why your RMs, or distributors, are actively marketing you only equity and hybrid schemes and less of debt? For the former products are considered 'retail'

(The author is co-founder, PrimeInvestor.in)

> While total expense ratio in retail-oriented MF plans is close to SEBI-prescribed limit, corporate-oriented plans come at lower costs as institutional investors have bargaining power

The other side of buy-and-hold strategy

THINKINVESTOR

Such a strategy could be useful when you do not have a defined investment horizon but could be harmful for goal-based investments. So, managing risk is important

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

An article on the Internet shows that buy-and-hold index strategy outperformed active buying and selling stocks over several 10-year holding periods.

This could be arithmetically true. A buy-and-hold strategy could be useful when you do not have a defined investment horizon but could be harmful for goal-based investments.

In this article, we show why this could be the case.

Terminal wealth

Terminal wealth refers to the amount in your portfolio at the end of the time horizon for a life goal; terminal wealth must be equal to the required amount to achieve a goal.

A goal-based portfolio typically has investments in equity and bonds. Your bond investments can be in stable-income products such as bank fixed deposits. Importantly, the actual return will be equal to the expected return, ignoring the bank's default risk. Your equity investments are exposed to market risk. This means the risk of a goal-based portfolio earning lower than required return will be entirely because of equity investments. So, managing the risk associated with your equity investments is important.

Suppose you invested ₹5 lakh last year and the investment accumulates to ₹5.6 lakh this year for a 12% gain.

Ignoring your contributions to the portfolio this year, what if the market declines by 10.7%?

The entire gains in your portfolio will be wiped out! This leads to a larger issue. Suppose the time horizon for your goal is 10 years and the required return on equity is 12%, your equity investment must earn 12% on a compounded basis to achieve the terminal wealth.

Any shortfall in return will be compounded over the time horizon for a life goal leading to goal failure. You must, therefore, manage your equity investments through a re-balancing process.

Conclusion

Re-balancing process refers to the adjustment of your equity allocation to manage risk. It is important to keep the process simple.

You could take profits on your equity investments when returns are greater than 1% in any year and invest the amount in fixed deposits. That way, you can capture the excess returns over the required return to achieve a goal.

Also, you must contribute more capital to your equity investments in any year when there is shortfall in returns. This money can come from your salary increase and from the deposits created from the excess returns. The upshot? Buy-and-hold strategy may not work for goal-based investments. Managing risk is important.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

PENALISED

Moeen fined for using unauthorised drying agent

England off-spinner Moeen Ali has been fined 25% of his match fee and handed one demerit point for using an unauthorised drying agent on his bowling hand in the first Ashes Test at Edgbaston, the ICC said on Sunday. The ICC accepted Moeen used the spray to merely dry his hands and was not attempting to alter the condition of the ball.

LEGENDARY

James Anderson completes 1,100 wickets in First Class cricket

England pacer James Anderson completed 1,100 wickets in First Class cricket on Sunday. On day three of the first Ashes Test in the 99th over of Australia's first innings, the 40-year-old ended his search for a wicket by dismantling Alex Carey's stumps for 66 off 99 balls, thus ending his 118-run partnership with Usman Khawaja.

COUNTY BECKONS

Rahane to play for Leicestershire after West Indies tour

Ajinkya Rahane will be plying his trade for the English county side Leicestershire in division two, after finishing his two-Test assignment with Indian team against the West Indies. This will be Rahane's second county stint, having played for Hampshire in the 2019 season when he was dropped from the 50 over World Cup side.

ANDY AGAIN

Murray claims Nottingham Open to extend winning streak

Andy Murray claimed a second title in two weeks at the Nottingham Open on Sunday to continue his fine preparation for Wimbledon. The three-time Grand Slam champion followed up his win at Surbiton last week with a flawless display to beat Frenchman Arthur Cazaux 6-4, 6-4 to claim the tournament without dropping a set.

Chhetri, Chhangte on target as India lifts Intercontinental Cup

After finishing woes lead to an unproductive opening session, both the goals come in the second half

FOOTBALL

Amitabha Das Sharma
BHUBANESWAR

India lifted its second football crown of the year, as it regained the Intercontinental Cup, taming a young Lebanon side by two second-half goals at the Kalinga Stadium here on Sunday. Earlier in March, Chhetri's men had won a tri-nation tournament, also involving Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan.

India had won the inaugural tournament in 2018 before DPR Korea bagged the crown in 2019. Captain Sunil Chhetri and Lallianzuala Chhangte found a goal each in the first quarter of the second half to send a 12,600-strong crowd into wild celebrations.

Finishing woes continued to bother India in the unproductive opening session which saw the host making a few openings but failing to convert. India made a powerful shout for a penalty in the sixth minute when Ashique Kuruniyan went down inside the Lebanon box after being tripped by the opposition defender Hussain Zain. The referee disregarded the call as India renewed its search for the goal without much avail.

Memorable campaign: The Indian team soaks in the victorious moment after taming Lebanon in the final. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Sahal Abdul Samad weaved past a couple of Lebanon defenders in the 16th minute before essaying a square pass to Chhetri. But before the Indian captain could reach the ball, the Lebanon defence intercepted.

The hosts found the lead in the very first minute of the second half when Chhetri found his 87th international goal thanks to a nice coordination on the right flank between Nikhil Poojary and Chhangte. The goal charged up the Indian camp as it went in search of more to seal the victory.

Insurance goal

The host did find the insurance goal after head coach Igor Stimac introduced a couple of substitutions to spruce up the attack. India doubled its lead in the 66th minute when substitute Naoram Mahesh Singh was released by Chhetri on the left. The winger fired a rasping left-footer which was blocked by Lebanese goalkeeper Ali Sabeh. Chhangte was lurking close by to slot in the rebound.

The result:
India 2 (Chhetri 46, Chhangte 66) bt Lebanon 0.

Satwiksairaj and Chirag claim India's first Super 1000 doubles crown

INDONESIA OPEN

Press Trust of India
JAKARTA

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty scripted history by winning the men's doubles title at the Indonesia Open here on Sunday, becoming the first pair from the country to claim a Super 1000 badminton event.

The Indians outwitted the Malaysian World champion duo of Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik 21-17, 21-18 in an intense contest that lasted 43 minutes.

Satwiksairaj and Chirag gained the initiative midway through the first game and they never really gave a sniff to their fancied opponents after that.

In the second game, the Indian pair did not allow their opponents to break free and a four-point streak kept it ahead of the curve. The Indians seemed to be in line for a facile victory when the Malaysians nullified four match points.

However, the World No. 6 pair could not be denied when the score read 20-18 and the duo converted the match point to script a magnificent win and take home a prize money of $ 92,500.

Phenoms: Chirag and Satwiksairaj are pleased as punch after showcasing their prowess to land the top prize. AP

Well prepared

"We had prepared very well for this event. We knew the crowd will be supporting us. We played some amazing badminton. We didn't have good head-to-head record against them, so wanted to play one point at a time and it fetched the result for us," said Satwiksairaj.

"Even in the second game when they took a couple of points, we were like we don't have to hold ourselves back and play safe. That would have made the game a little slow and they are good at capitalising on. I am really happy and we really needed this win," commented Chirag Shetty.

Completing the 'trick

In men's singles, World No. 1 Viktor Axelsen clinched his third-consecutive title here after outplaying hometown favourite and World No. 2 Anthony Sinisuka Ginting 21-14, 21-13.

In the women's final, China's Chen Yu Fei defeated Spain's Carolina Marin 21-18, 21-19 to bag the title.

England suffers double blow after taking seven-run lead

THE ASHES

Reuters
BIRMINGHAM

England was shell-shocked after losing two wickets in three overs as Australia took advantage of favourable conditions in a brief restart between rain delays to wrest back the momentum in the series-opening Ashes Test at Edgbaston on Sunday.

England was 28 for two when rain ended play for the day. Stokes' men have a lead of 35 runs after Australia was bowled out for 386 before lunch in reply to the host's first innings total of 393. Usman Khawaja scored 141 runs, his first Test century in England.

Pat Cummins dismissed Ben Duckett for 19 after Cameron Green pulled off a spectacular diving catch in the slips, his second blinder in as many weeks after his involvement in the dismissal of India's Shubman Gill in the World Test Championship final.

Three balls later, fellow-opener Crawley (7) followed him off the field after edging a Scott Boland delivery to wicketkeeper Alex Carey. With rain falling, their replacements Ollie Pope and Joe Root, both yet to get off the mark in the second innings, headed off gratefully when play was once again halted with dark clouds hovering menacingly above the stadium.

A screamer! Green, centre, was in the thick of things again as he pulled off a stunning catch to send back Duckett. GETTY IMAGES

England, which has won 11 of its last 13 Tests under Stokes and head coach Brendon McCullum, is looking to regain the Ashes.

SCOREBOARD

England — 1st innings: 393 for eight decl. in 78 overs.

Australia — 1st innings: David Warner b Broad 9, Usman Khawaja b Robinson 141, Marnus Labuschagne c Bairstow b Broad 0, Steve Smith lbw b Stokes 16, Travis Head c Crawley b Moeen 50, Cameron Green b Moeen 38, Alex Carey b Anderson 66, Pat Cummins c Stokes b Robinson 38, Nathan Lyon c Duckett b Robinson 1, Scott Boland c Pope b Broad 0, Josh Hazlewood (not out) 1; Extras (b-4, lb-6, w-1, nb-15): 26; Total (in 116.1 overs): 386.

Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-29, 3-67, 4-148, 5-220, 6-338, 7-372, 8-377, 9-378.

England bowling: Broad 23-4-68-3, Robinson 22.1-5-55-3, Anderson 21-5-53-1, Brook 3-1-5-0, Moeen 33-4-147-2, Stokes 7-0-33-1, Root 7-3-15-0.

England — 2nd innings: Zak Crawley c Carey b Boland 7, Ben Duckett c Green b Cummins 19, Ollie Pope (batting) 0, Joe Root (batting) 0; Extras (lb-2): 2; Total (for two wkts. in 10.3 overs): 28.

Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-27.

Australia bowling: Cummins 5.3-1-9-1, Hazlewood 2-0-10-0, Lyon 1-0-6-0, Boland 2-1-1-1.

Domestic season schedule released; Ranji from Jan. 5

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have been drawn in the same group for the Ranji Trophy's next edition, set to be played from Jan. 5 to March 14 next year.

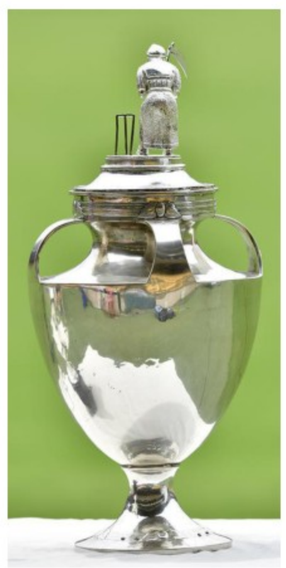
The detailed tournament schedule for domestic cricket was shared with all the State associations on Saturday evening by Abey Kuruvilla, the BCCI's General Manager - Game Development.

The programme, accessed by *The Hindu*, has explained that the groupings for all the senior tournaments are based on performance in the last season's respective tournaments.

As a result, Karnataka, the last season's semifinalist, and Tamil Nadu are placed in Group D along with Punjab, Railways, Goa, Gujarat, Tripura and Chandigarh.

Defending champion Saurashtra and Maharashtra are again drawn in the same group, Group A, while Mumbai will be in a challenging Group B along with Bengal, Andhra, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Bihar.

The schedule and groupings:
Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy:



Ranji Trophy... the coveted one. FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

League stage: Oct. 16 to 27. **Venues:** Mohali, Mumbai, Ranchi, Jaipur, Dehradun. **Knockouts:** Oct. 31 to Nov. 6. **Venue:** Mohali.
Group A: Mumbai, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Hyderabad, Baroda, Meghalaya, Jammu & Kashmir, Mizoram. **Group B:** Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Services, Assam, Chandigarh, Odisha, Bihar, Sikkim. **Group C:** Punjab, Saurashtra, Gujarat, Goa, Railways, Andhra, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh. **Group D:** Vidarbha, Bengal, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Pondicherry. **Group E:** Karnataka, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Nagaland.
Vijay Hazare Trophy:
League stage: Nov. 23 to Dec. 5. Venues: Thiruvananthapuram, Bengaluru, Jaipur, Chandigarh, Ahmedabad. **Knockouts:** Dec. 9 to 16. **Venue:** Rajkot.

Group A: Saurashtra, Kerala, Mumbai, Railways, Tripura, Pondicherry, Odisha, Sikkim. **Group B:** Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Hyderabad, Chhattisgarh, Vidarbha, Services, Meghalaya, Manipur. **Group C:** Karnataka, Jammu & Kashmir, Chandigarh, Haryana, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Mizoram. **Group D:** Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh. **Group E:** Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Bengal, Baroda, Goa, Nagaland.

Ranji Trophy:

Elite League stage: Jan. 5 to Feb. 19, 2024. Plate/League stage: Jan. 5 to Feb. 5, 2024. **Elite knockout stage:** Feb. 23 to March 14, 2024. **Plate knockout stage:** Feb. 9 to 21, 2024.

Elite Group A: Saurashtra, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Vidarbha, Haryana, Services, Manipur. **Elite Group B:** Bengal, Andhra, Mumbai, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Bihar. **Elite Group C:** Karnataka, Punjab, Railways, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Gujarat, Tripura, Chandigarh. **Elite Group D:** Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Baroda, Delhi, Odisha, Pondicherry, Jammu & Kashmir.

Plate Group: Nagaland, Hyderabad, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh.

Italy holds off the Netherlands to finish third

NATIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
ENSCHEDE

Italy claimed the consolation bronze medal at the Nations League finals, and added to a disappointing week for hosts the Netherlands, as it edged the Dutch 3-2 in Sunday's third place playoff tie at the Twente Stadium.

Federico Dimarco thrashed the ball home at the far post in the sixth minute and Davide Frattesi doubled the score in the 20th minute to give Italy a comfortable halftime lead.

But the Dutch launched a concerted second half comeback, making three attacking changes at the break, laying siege to Italy's goal and seeing Steven Bergwijn pull a goal back in the 68th minute.

Two-goal advantage

Federico Chiesa restored the two goal advantage at the end of a 73rd minute counter-attack but there was an exciting conclusion as Georginio Wijnaldum got a second for the Dutch in the 89th.

Wijnaldum's late goal renewed hopes of a comeback but it was not to be for the Dutch, who had high hopes of home success in the tournament but were beaten 4-2 in extra time by Croatia in Wednesday's first semifinal.

Reigning European champion Italy had lost to a last-minute goal in its semifinal against Spain on Thursday.

Bang! Dimarco fires in Italy's opening goal. AP

INBRIEF

Ashwini and Tanisha duo triumphs in Nantes

Indian shuttlers Ashwini Ponappa and Tanisha Crasto got the better of Chinese Taipei's Hung En-Tzu and Lin Yu-Pei 21-15, 21-14 to win the women's doubles crown in the Nantes International Challenge at Reze, France, on Sunday. However, in the mixed doubles final, Tanisha and Sai Pratheek went down to Denmark's Mads Vestergaard and Christine Busch 21-14, 14-21, 17-21.

Boulter wins battle of the Brits to claim first WTA title

Katie Boulter won her first WTA Tour title on Sunday, beating Jodie Burrage 6-3, 6-3 in the Nottingham Open in the first all-British final at this level for 46 years. Boulter cemented her position as British No. 1 and will move to a career high inside the world's top 80.

Alaves stuns Levante to earn La Liga promotion

Alaves bounced back to the La Liga with a dramatic 129th-minute penalty winner against Levante to clinch a 1-0 promotion play-off win after extra-time in Valencia on Saturday. Asier Villalibre, on loan from Athletic Bilbao, converted from the spot after Rober Pier handled the ball just inside his area.

Vinicius, Brazil spot on with black strip anti-racism protest

On a night in which Brazil wore an all-black strip to protest racism in football, Vinicius Junior was on the score sheet and in the spotlight in a 4-1 international friendly win over Guinea. The 22-year-old has been subjected to frequent racist abuse this season and Brazil decided the freindly was a good opportunity to strike back as the match was staged in Espanyol's stadium. Brazil was kitted out in an all-black strip in a stand against racism for the first half of the game.

Karman Kaur makes the final in Sumter

Second seed Karman Kaur Thandi defeated fifth seed Maria Mateas 7-5, 6-3 in the semifinals of the $60,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Sumter, USA.In the $15,000 ITF men's event in Jakarta, Siddhant Banthia and Sai Karteek Reddy won the doubles title. It was the fifth doubles crown in the professional circuit for Banthia, while it was fourth for Sai Karteek

The results:
$60,000 ITF women, Sumter, USA: Semifinals: Karman Kaur Thandi bt Maria Mateas (USA) 7-5, 6-3.
$15,000 ITF men, Jakarta: Doubles (final): Siddhant Banthia & Sai Karteek Reddy Ganta bt Sora Fukuda & Tomohiro Masabayashi (Jpn) 6-7(3), 7-5, [10-5].

Tiafoe saves match point to claim maiden grass court title

Frances Tiafoe claimed his first grass court title on Sunday, saving a match point to defeat Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff 4-6, 7-6 (1), 7-6 (8) in the Stuttgart Open final. The win will help him move into the World top 10 for the first time.

LIVE TELECAST

CWC 2023 Qualifiers: Star Sports 1 & Hotstar, 12.30 p.m.
The Ashes: 1st Test, day 4, Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 3.30 p.m.
PHL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7 & 8.30 p.m.
TNPL: Star Sports 3 & FanCode, 7.15 p.m.
FIH Pro League: SS Select 1, 2 & Hotstar, 10 p.m. onwards

Making the grade: Sreeshankar, left, uncorked a monster jump to attain the qualifying marks for the Asiad and Worlds, while javelin thrower Shivpal also booked a spot for Hangzhou. FILE PHOTO & RITU RAJ KONWAR

Sreeshankar leaps to a meet record

A personal best effort of 8.41m helps the 24-year-old qualify for Asian Games and Worlds; Ancy books a ticket to Hangzhou in the women's section

INTER-STATE ATHLETICS

Y.B. Sarangi
BHUBANESWAR

Competing in sweltering heat, Commonwealth Games silver medallist long jumper M. Sreeshankar excelled at his favourite venue to achieve his personal best of 8.41m, and qualify for the World championships, in the National inter-State athletics championships at the Kalinga Stadium on Sunday.

In the qualifying round, the 24-year-old notched up a fine effort in his opening attempt and left the Hangzhou Asian Games mark behind. He narrowly missed Jeswin Aldrin's National record (8.42m), but erased his own 2022 meet record (8.23m).

Five years ago, Sreeshankar had overcome a heat stroke to cross the 8m mark for the first time in the National Open meet at the same venue and had gone on to rewrite the National record by achieving 8.20m.

With his father and coach S. Murali attendance, Sreeshankar – who missed the 2018 Asian Games due to an appendicitis operation – executed a smooth take-off and ensured a big jump. He recorded an 8m-plus jump for the third time this season and a world leading performance behind Jeswin.

Strategy

Murali said that Sreeshankar's performance was the result of a well-planned strategy, including a change in diet plan. "We reached Kerala (from Europe) on June 11 in order to acclimatice. We are staying in the same hotel here. The plan is to peak at the right time," said Murali, accompanying Sreeshankar to a 'voluntary' dope test before the final.

Jeswin (7.83m) and Muhammed Anees (7.71m) were outside the Asian Games cut-off mark.

Ancy Sojan posted her best first-attempt jump, 6.49m, to qualify for the Hangzhou Games in the women's event. Nayana James (6.31m) and Shaili Singh (6.27m) were among the leading jumpers.

Kishore Jena (79.96m), Shivpal Singh (79.35m) and Anuj Kalera (79.04m) attained the men's javelin qualification mark.

Rohit Yadav (76.32m) and D.P. Manu (76.21m) had to wait.

Ajay Kumar Saroj (3:44.13) led a pack of four athletes to breach the Asiad cut off time. R. Vithya Ramraj (57.23) staked her claim for a ticket to Hangzhou in women's 200m.

Amlan Borgohain (21.37) was the fastest male in 200m heats. Tajinderpal Singh Toor did 18.91m in shot put.

The results (qualified for Asian Games): Men: 1500m (World championships qualifying mark: 3:34.20, Asian Games qualifying mark: 3:47.84): 1. Ajay Kumar Saroj (U.P.) 3:44.13, 2. Yoonus Shah (UP) 3:44.22, 3. Sachelal Patel (Utk) 3:44.33, 4. Rahul Baloda (Raj) 3:46.73.
Long jump (WC QM: 8.25m, AG QM: 7.95m): 1. M. Sreeshankar (Ker) 8.41m (NMR, Old 8.23m, Sreeshankar, 2022); **javelin** (WC QM: 85.20, AG QM: 78.23): 1. Kishore Jena (Odi) 79.96m, 2. Shivpal Singh (U.P.) 79.35m, 3. Anuj Kalera (Raj) 79.04m.
Women: 400mH (WC QM: 54.90, AG QM: 57.48): 1. R.Vithya Ramraj (TN) 57.23; **long jump** (WC QM: 6.85m, AG QM: 6.45m): 1. Ancy Sojan (Ker) 6.49m.

Abhishek claims his third World Cup gold

Hitting the bull's eye: Compound archer Abhishek clinched the men's individual gold. WORLD ARCHERY FEDERATION

ARCHERY WORLD CUP

Sports Bureau

Experienced compound archer Abhishek Verma clinched the men's individual gold medal in the Archery World Cup Stage-3 at Medellin, Colombia.

Abhishek, who was not part of the Indian side for the first two stages of the event, had earlier defeated World No.1 Mike Schloesser on his way to the semifinals. He then beat Brazilian Luccas Abreu 148-143 in the last four and American James Lutz 148-146 in the final to win his third World Cup gold. Abhishek was part of the Indian team which clinched the men's team bronze.

Jamari lives up to her billing in Fillies Championship

RACING

BENGALURU: P. Shroff-trained Jamari (Trevor up) won the Fillies Championship Stakes, the first Classic of the season held here on Sunday (June 18).
The winner is owned by Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt. Ltd. rep. by Mr. K.N. Dhunjibhoy & Mr. Z.K. Dhunjibhoy, Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala & M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP rep. by Mr. D.R. Thacker & Miss. Anita J. Captain.
Trevor, who rode confidently, kept his filly third till 400m and improved to be second at 300m before manoeuvring his mount from outside. Jamari accelerated tremendously and galloped with giant strides to pip long-time leader Meropi at the post.
THE RESULTS:
1. MEYDAN PLATE: JERSEY LEGEND (Arvind K) 1, Debonair (A. Ramu) 2, Konichiwa (Hindu S) 3 and Akasi (Chethan K) 4. 1-1/2, 2-1/2 and 1/2. 1m, 14.42s. ₹36 (w), 14, 26 and 42 (p), SHP: 77, THP: 109, FP: 239, Q: 332, Trinella: 5,794, Exacta: 88,352. Favourite: Max Mueller. Owner: Mr. Maria Prashanth. Trainer: Kishan Thomas.
2. MANDYA STAKES: IMPIANA (C. Umesh) 1, Caesars Palace (Hindu S) 2, Sian (T.S. Jodha) 3 and Fearless Joey (Ajeeth K) 4. 4-3/4, 2-3/4 and 1/2. 1m, 26.07s. ₹22 (w), 12, 47 and 23 (p), SHP: 172, THP: 50, FP: 392, Q: 399, Trinella: 3,099, Exacta: 8,067. Favourite: Impiana. Owner: Mr. Sarainaga Racing Pvt Ltd. Trainer: Azhar Ali.
3. TREASURE GIRL PLATE (DIV. II): SEA EAGLE (Zervan) 1, Asagiri (Rayan) 2, Rochelle (K. Nazil) 3 and Confidential (Hindu S) 4. 2-1/2, Nose and 8-1/4. 1m, 07.33s. ₹24 (w), 12, 14 and 28 (p), SHP: 41, THP: 67, FP: 82, Q: 49, Trinella: 550, Exacta: 3,233. Favourite: Sea Eagle. Owners: Manjri Horse Breed Farm Pvt Ltd, Mr. Hemant Dharnidharka, Mr. Anjan Kumar Rangaraj & Mr. Kishore Reddy. Trainer: Neil Darashah.
4. STEWARDS CUP: SAVVY CHIC (K. Nazil) 1, Place Vendome (Akshay K) 2, Emperor Roderic (P.S. Chouhan) 3 and Last Wish (Bhawani S) 4. 2, Nk and 3/4. 1m, 23.54s. ₹63 (w), 22, 15 and 15 (p), SHP: 43, THP: 46, FP: 839, Q: 238, Trinella: 1,505, Exacta: 6,172. Favourite: Amreli. Owner: Mr. Faiz Adam. Trainer: Patrick Quinn.
5. STAR SUPREME PLATE: HUNTINGDON (S. Saqlain) 1, Wild Emperor (T.S. Jodha) 2, Silver Canyon (Akshay K) 3 and Mandela (Hindu S) 4. 1-1/4, 3/4 and 2-1/4. 1m, 37.86s. ₹62 (w), 19, 15 and 12 (p), SHP: 42, THP: 53, FP: 366, Q: 177, Trinella: 762, Exacta: 4,193. Favourite: Silver Canyon. Owners: Mr. Vazhaparmbil John Joseph & Mr. Bharat Venkat Epur. Trainer: L. D'Silva.
6. FILLIES CHAMPIONSHIP STAKES: JAMARI (COUGAR MOUNTAIN-GLYNDEBOURNE) TREVOR 1, Meropi (Western Aristocrat-Panamera) Akshay K 2, Waikiki (Leitir Mor-Mauna Kea) N.S. Parmar 3 and Auspicious Queen (Gusto-Almandine) Yash 4. Nk, 3/4 and 3-1/4. 1m, 36.69s. ₹17 (w), 13, 15 and 18 (p), SHP: 31, THP: 47, FP: 34, Q: 33, Trinella: 206, Exacta: 1,763. Favourite: Jamari. Owners: Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt. Ltd. rep. by Mr. K.N. Dhunjibhoy & Mr. Z.K. Dhunjibhoy, Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala & M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP rep. by Mr. D.R. Thacker & Miss. Anita J. Captain. Trainer: P. Shroff.
7. TREASURE GIRL PLATE (DIV. I): CLIFFORD (Zervan) 1, Leather Back (Salman Khan) 2, Young Diana (Akshay K) 3 and Alexina (Santosh Raj) 4. 1/2, Shd and 5-1/2. 1m, 06.28s. ₹45 (w), 17, 74 and 33 (p), SHP: 207, THP: 65, FP: 1,175, Q: 792, Trinella: 38,805, Exacta: 87,289 (carried over). Favourite: Alexina. Owners: Manjri Horse Breed Farm Pvt. Ltd, Mr. Hemant Dharnidharka & Mrs. Anneka Darashah. Trainer: Neil Darashah.
8. PARSIANA PLATE: WORDSMITH (Kritish Bhagat) 1, Time (K. Nazil) 2, Rapidus (Akshay K) 3 and Inyouwebelieve (Trevor) 4. 1, 1-1/2 and Hd. 1m, 24.24s. ₹193 (w), 36, 20 and 13 (p), SHP: 59, THP: 49, FP: 2,207, Q: 2,220, Trinella: 11,805, Exacta: 2,14,221. Favourite: Inyouwebelieve. Owners: Mr. Vijay B Shirke, Mrs. Vijay B. Shirke, Manjri Horse Breed Farm Pvt Ltd rep. by Mr. Pallon S. Mistry & Darashaw Bloodstock Pvt Ltd rep. by M/s. Keki D. Mehta and Dara K. Mehta & Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP rep. by Mr. D.R. Thacker. Trainer: P. Shroff.
Jackpot: ₹1,13,578 (carried over); Runner-up: 811 (60 tkts.); Treble (i): 870 (13 tkts.); (ii): 1,558 (14 tkts.).

Rewarding a champion: The BTC chairman Shiv Kumar Kheny with Jamari owners Rama Seshu Eyunni, Anita J. Captain, K.N. Dhunjibhoy, along with trainer Pesi Shroff and jockey P. Trevor, after their horse claimed the Fillies Championship on Sunday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Fowler and Clark tied atop the leaderboard after third round

U.S. OPEN

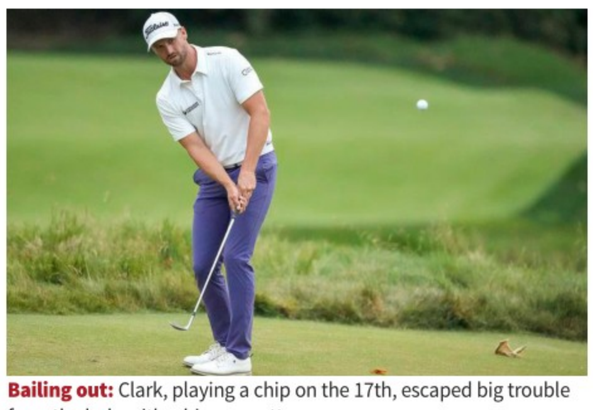
Associated Press
LOS ANGELES

Rickie Fowler brought the buzz to the U.S. Open golf with a 70-foot birdie putt only to lose the lead by missing from 3-1/2 feet on the final hole on Saturday, giving him a share of the lead with Wyndham Clark and setting up a final round filled with possibilities.

Fowler had to settle for an even-par 70. Clark escaped big trouble from the barranca with a 6-foot par putt on the 17th to stay close, and then boldly took on a tight left pin at the 18th for a 6-foot birdie for a 69 that allowed him to catch Fowler.

Right there with them was Rory McIlroy. He played a steady hand – one birdie and one bogey over his last 14 holes on a course that finally started to play like a U.S. Open. McIlroy had a 69 that left him one shot behind, poised to end nine years without a major.

Scottie Scheffler, the No. 1 player in the world, never looked to be in the mix until he closed out his round of 68 by holing a 7-iron from 196 yards on the 17th hole and making a 20-foot birdie putt that put him in the penultimate group with McIlroy.



Bailing out: Clark, playing a chip on the 17th, escaped big trouble from the hole with a big par putt. AP

Leading scores (after third round): 200: Rickie Fowler, 62-68-70, Wyndham Clark 64-67-69; **201:** Rory McIlroy 65-67-69; **203:** Scottie Scheffler 67-68-68; **204:** Harris English 67-66-71; **205:** Dustin Johnson 64-70-71, Xander Schauffele (USA) 62-70-73.

Red Bull's Verstappen on pole for Canadian GP

Reuters
MONTREAL

Formula One championship leader Max Verstappen took pole position on Saturday in a wet qualifying for a Canadian Grand Prix that could see him secure Red Bull's milestone 100th win.

It was an unpredictable and wild afternoon of racing at a rain-swept Circuit Gilles Villeneuve as teams rolled the dice switching from wet tyres to slicks as track conditions changed.

Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso was second while Lewis Hamilton will line up third with Mercedes teammate George Russell fourth. The pole, in a time of one minute and 25.858 seconds, was 25th of Verstappen's career.

Raeady for action: The Special Olympics got off to a colourful start. GETTY IMAGES

Special Olympics start with grand opening ceremony

ANI
BERLIN

Cheered on by a loud and enthusiastic crowd at the Olympiastadion Berlin – a stage that has hosted the 2006 FIFA World Cup final and currently serves as the home of Hertha Berlin SC – a 255 member India contingent walked on for the Special Olympics World Games on Saturday.

India's delegation was led by roller skater Aryan Nagalli. Alongwith Nagalli, handball player Ankush Kumar, athlete Geetanjali Nagvelar and cyclist Kalpana Jena from Odisha also led the line for India.

Fernandes on the double as Portugal rules the night

Silva scores the other goal as the side eases past Bosnia, registers its third successive victory and consolidates its position at the top of Group J; Haaland strikes but Norway loses to Scotland

EURO 2024 QUALIFIER

Reuters
LISBON

Bruno Fernandes' brace and Bernardo Silva's goal help Portugal earn a 3-0 home win over Bosnia and Herzegovina on Saturday to secure its third straight win in the Euro 2024 qualifying campaign.

Roberto Martinez's side top Group J with nine points and will be looking for a fourth successive victory against Iceland on Tuesday. Bosnia, fourth on three points, next host Luxembourg.

Portugal dominated possession but only opened the scoring seconds before halftime when Silva chipped in from Fernandes's pass to register his 11th international goal. Fernandes doubled the lead with a brilliant header from Ruben Neves's cross in the 77th minute before sealing the win in stoppage time.

"I was fresh, now less fresh, but I will recover. Later I'll have my rest, but I always want to play and give my best. I don't want to think about being tired," the Manchester United midfielder told Sport TV.

"It was a great win, these are difficult games and we have to make them easy, as we did.

"I'm pleased to have scored, but the most important thing was getting the three points. We want to be in the European Championship."

All that matters: Bruno says he is not thinking about being tired now as he wants to give his best for Portugal. AP

A satisfied coach Martinez also pointed out the fatigue of his players as the season draws to a close.

"Today was a typical June stage game, with mental fatigue. The players were at a high level physically, it was a difficult game against a team with very clear ideas," said the Spanish coach.

"We need to be together, to learn, to play as a team. We need games like this to keep growing. We must enjoy the victory... Then we will think about Iceland."

In other matches, Erling Haaland scored a penalty as Norway went down 1-2 against Scotland while Romelu Lukaku's equaliser helped Belgium eke out a 1-1 draw against Austria.

The results: Group A: Norway 1 (Haaland 61-pen) lost to Scotland 2 (Dykes 87, McLean 89); Cyprus 1 (Pittas 40-pen) lost to Georgia 2 (Mikautadze 31, Davitashvili 84).
E: Albania 2 (Asani 52, Bajrami 76) bt Moldova 0; Faroe Islands 0 lost to Czech Republic 3 (Krejci 15, Cerny 44, 75).
F: Azerbaijan 1 (Krivotsyuk 62) drew with Estonia 1 (Sappinen 27); Belgium 1 (Lukaku 61) drew with Austria 1 (Mangala 22-og).
G: Lithuania 1 (Girdvainis 15) drew with Bulgaria 1 (Petkov 27); Montenegro 0 drew with Hungary 0.
J: Luxembourg 2 (Sinani 59, Rodrigues 89) bt Liechtenstein 0; Iceland 1 (Finnbogason 41-pen) lost to Slovakia 2 (Kucka 27, Suslov 70); Portugal 3 (Bernardo Silva 44, Fernandes 77, 90+3) bt Bosnia and Herzegovina 0.

'European football need not fear player exodus to Saudi'

Associated Press
GENEVA

European soccer should not be afraid of a player exodus to Saudi Arabian clubs, UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin said on Sunday, suggesting the country was making a mistake investing in stars at the end of their careers.

Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema have taken hundreds of millions of dollars to join Saudi Arabian clubs this year and similar offers were made to Lionel Messi and Luka Modric. They have combined to win every Ballon d'Or awarded since 2008 and all are aged at least 35.

More players are expected to follow after four top Saudi Arabian clubs were effectively nationalised this month .

Ceferin was asked if he was scared of a player exodus, and answered emphatically: "No, no, no." "I think that it's mainly a mistake for Saudi Arabian football," the UEFA president said.

Aleksander Ceferin. AP

"Why is that a problem for them? Because they should invest in academies, they should bring coaches, and they should develop their own players." "The system of buying the players that almost ended their career is not the system that develops football," he said.

"Tell me one player who is top, top age and who starts his career and went to play in Saudi Arabia?" Ceferin asked during the interview on the sidelines of the Nations League Finals mini-tournament hosted in the Netherlands.

"But it's not about money only. Players want to win top competitions. And top competition is in Europe," the UEFA leader said.

"We didn't lose them," Ceferin said when asked if European soccer had lost top attractions. "They still play football. At the end of their career some players go somewhere to earn some money."

Ceferin reiterated that UEFA is looking at rules to impose an overall cap on the budget for salaries and transfers for clubs that qualify to play in European competitions.

Afif and Ebadot recalled to Bangladesh squad for T20Is

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

Afif Hossain and Ebadot Hossain returned as Bangladesh named its 15-man squad on Sunday for next month's two-match Twenty20 International series against Afghanistan.

Afif was dropped from Bangladesh's T20 set-up during its recent home series against Ireland, but forced his way back into the squad after a consistent performance in domestic cricket.

Afif Hossain. GETTY IMAGES

Ebadot, who claimed five wickets in Bangladesh's record 546-run win in the one-off Test against Afghanistan on Saturday, played the last of his four T20s against Pakistan in December 2022.

The two T20 matches of the series will be held in Sylhet on July 14 and

The squad: Shakib Al Hasan (Capt.), Liton Das, Rony Talukdar, Najmul Hossain, Towhid Hridoy, Shamim Hossain, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Nasum Ahmed, Mustafizur Rahman, Hasan Mahmud, Taskin Ahmed, Ebadot Hossain, Shoriful Islam, Rishad Hossain and Afif Hossain.

Rashid. AFP

Rashid makes comeback for ODIs against Bangladesh

ANI
KABUL

Star spinner Rashid Khan has made his return to the Afghanistan side for the three-match ODI series against Bangladesh to be played on July 5, 8 and 11.

The squad:
ODI: Hashmatullah Shahidi (capt.), Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Ibrahim Zadran, Riaz Hassan, Rahmat Shah, Najibullah Zadran, Mohammad Nabi, Ikram Alikhil, Rashid Khan, Azmatullah Omarzai, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Abdul Rahman, Shahidullah, Zia-ur-Rehman, Wafadar Momand, Mohammad Saleem and Sayed Shirzad.
Reserves: Karim Janat, Zubaid Akbari, Qais Ahmad, Ihsanullah Janat, Gulbadin Naib, Sharafuddin Ashraf, Naveen-ul-Haq, Farid Malik, Darwish Rasooli and Ishaq Rahimi.

Pakistan team's arrival for SAFF C'ship delayed due to visa issue

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Pakistan's arrival for the eight-nation SAFF Championship football which begins here on June 21 (Wednesday) has been delayed over a visa issue. Pakistan and India are scheduled to meet on the opening day of the tournament at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium.

The Pakistan squad was expected to arrive in the city on Sunday after finishing the Four Nation Cup in Mauritius. The side is now expected to reach the Karnataka capital either on Monday or Tuesday.

"The visa formality is going on and since it was a weekend it couldn't be completed in time," said a senior Karnataka State Football Association official.

Asked if there was any chance of Pakistan missing out on the competition, the official reiterated that "there was every chance of the Pakistan team arriving in time for the tie."

Project to track abuse identifies more than 300

Solidarity: FIFA and FIFPRO have extended the system for use at next month's Women's World Cup. GETTY IMAGES

Associated Press
GENEVA

A project using artificial intelligence to track social media abuse aimed at players at the 2022 World Cup identified more than 300 people, whose details are being given to law enforcement, FIFA said on Sunday.

The people made "abusive, discriminatory, or threatening posts (or) comments" on platforms like Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, TikTok or YouTube, football's governing body said in a report detailing efforts to protect players and officials during the tournament played in Qatar.

The biggest spike in abuse was during the France-England quarterfinals game, said the final report from a project created jointly by FIFA and the players' global union FIFPRO.

It used artificial intelligence to help identify and hide offensive social media posts. "Violence and threat became more extreme as the tournament progressed with players' families increasingly referenced and many threatened if players returned to a particular country - either the nation they represent or where they play football," the report said.

About 20 million posts and comments were scanned and more than 19,000 were flagged as abusive. More than 13,000 of those were reported to Twitter for action.

Accounts based in Europe sent 38% of the identifiable abuse whereas 36% came from South America, FIFA said.

"The figures and findings in this report do not come as a surprise, but they are still massively concerning," said David Aganzo, president of Netherlands-based FIFPRO.

Players and teams were offered moderation software that intercepted more than 286,000 abusive comments before they were seen.

The identities of more than 300 people identified for posting abuse "will be shared with the relevant member associations and jurisdictional law authorities to facilitate real-world action being taken against offenders," FIFA said.

"Discrimination is a criminal act. With the help of this tool, we are identifying the perpetrators and we are reporting them to the authorities so that they are punished for their actions," FIFA President Gianni Infantino said in a statement.

"We also expect the social media platforms to accept their responsibilities and to support us in the fight against all forms of discrimination," he said.

FIFA and FIFPRO have extended the system for use at the Women's World Cup that starts next month in Australia and New Zealand as well.

Windies all-rounder Cariah suffers facial fracture

ANI
HARARE

West Indies all-rounder Yannic Cariah had a nasal fracture after a ball struck his face during training ahead of the ICC men's cricket World Cup Qualifier in Harare, according to ICC.

However, the all-rounder will remain in Zimbabwe and reassess his injury. Windies are placed in Group A alongside the USA, Nepal, Zimbabwe and the Netherlands.

The 30-year-old has played eight ODIs since making debut against New Zealand in August last year.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Bank of Baroda and Beagles BC triumph

Bank of Baroda (BOB) and Beagles BC emerged the men's and women's champions respectively in the Bangalore Open 3x3 basketball championship on Sunday. BOB overcame Syes Basketball 19-17 while Beagles beat Bangalore Vanguards 21-12.

Raman SA runs riot

Raman Sports Academy thrashed Vicky FA 9-0 in an under-14 match of the Head Digital Works Junior Football League held here over the weekend.

Other results: U-14: Wolvespack-A bt Bangalore Super Strikers 5-2; Bangalore Arrows lost to MBFC 1-2; Wolvespack-B lost to Bangalore Super Strikers 0-1; Wolvespack-A lost to Stallions FA 2-4; Vicky FA lost to MBFC 2-4; Wolvespack-B lost to Raman Sports Academy 2-6; Bangalore Arrows lost to Stallions FA 1-3.
U-12: RAPT Sports School lost to NPS-D5 Academy 1-2; Raman Sports Academy bt The Football People 9-0; Barca Academy bt Rapt Sports School 8-0; Vicky FA drew with NPS-D5 Academy 1-1; MBFC lost to Stallions FA 1-5; Barca Academy bt Vicky FA 5-2; MBFC drew with Raman Sports Academy 3-3; Stallions FA bt The Football People 10-2.
U-10: Barca Academy lost to Raman Sports Academy 1-4; Wolvespack bt MSDF Belagavi 3-1; Barca Academy bt The Football People 6-0; Pep Sports Academy bt RAPT Sports School 3-1; The Football People lost to Wolvespack 2-4; Raman Sports Academy bt Pep Sports Elite 10-0; Pep Sports Academy drew with MSDF Belagavi 0-0; Pep Sports Elite drew with RAPT Sports School 1-1.

Martin holds off Bagnaia to win German MotoGP

Poise and purpose: In a tough race, it was Martin who had the final say. AFP

Agence France-Presse
SACHSENRING (GERMANY)

Jorge Martin edged out world champion Francesco Bagnaia after a cut-and-thrust battle over the last 10 laps to win Sunday's German MotoGP at Sachsenring, thereby trimming the Italian's lead in the standings.

Having also won Saturday's sprint, the Spaniard, who rides for the Pramac Ducati team, resisted late counter-attacks. Frenchman Johann Zarco, on another Pramac, completed the podium.

Confident India eager to win against Uzbekistan

Press Trust of India
PATHUM THANI (THAILAND)

Buoyed by the hard-fought draw against Vietnam, India would be keen to notch up a win when it takes on Uzbekistan in its second game of the AFC U-17 Asian Cup here on Tuesday.

India came from behind in the tournament opener on Saturday to force a 1-1 draw in a spirited performance.

After Vietnam took the lead in the first half through Long Vu, India's Malemngamba Thokchom scored the equaliser in the second half.

Uzbekistan also played out a 1-1 draw in their opening game against Japan.

Amirbek Saidov scored the equaliser in the 83rd minute after Japan had taken the lead in the eighth minute through Yutaka Michiwaki.

India head coach Bibiano Fernandes said his team will take a lot of confidence from the draw against Vietnam in Group-D. "It could have been a different story had we got those three points, but we can take confidence from the display and come back stronger for the next two matches," he said.

"It (draw) was a good result for us in the end. Our boys played very well, and Vietnam also played a good game. We'll take the one point from this match and move forward to the next one." Despite Vietnam enjoying more ball possession (59%), India created more chances (four).

Fernandes said, "There were a lot of attacks from our end, but Vietnam also defended quite well in those opening exchanges. It was a small defensive error on our part that led to their goal, but overall, I am happy with how the boys have done. One point puts us in a decent position, and we need to make sure we do well in the other two matches."

The Indian coach also acknowledged that Uzbekistan is a much-improved team from the last time the two sides met earlier this year.

"This will be a very different game, but I am confident the boys can work on the shortcomings and do well from there."

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EDUCATIONPLUS

OFF THE EDGE
Nandini Raman

Seek guidance

Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence? This column may help

I am a final year B.Sc. Agriculture student. I am interested in working in ISRO. Is this possible with my degree? Amaresh

Dear Amaresh,

Yes, but the opportunities may be rather limited as ISRO primarily focuses on space technology and research. There are very few vacancies and hardly any notifications for Scientist (SC) in Agriculture as compared to that for Engineering disciplines. So it is better to look for opportunities directly related to Agriculture.

After completing my Bachelor's in Agriculture, I want to do a Master's in Plant Breeding from abroad. Which countries/ institutions are the best? What options do I have after this? Madan Kumar

Dear Madan,

Some top institutions that offer a Master's in Plant Breeding are Wageningen University & Research, Netherlands; University of California, Davis, the U.S.; Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden; University of Guelph, Canada; and the University of Reading, the U.K. They offer state-of-the-art facilities, have renowned faculty members, and also offer excellent research opportunities. You could explore career opportunities in the agriculture and biotechnology sectors with job roles including Plant Breeder, Plant Geneticist, Research Scientist, Crop Scientist, and Biotech Researcher. Opportunities in research and development in organisations such as seed companies, plant breeding companies, government research institutes, and universities also are available. Pursuing a Ph.D. can open up opportunities for teaching and research positions at universities and research institutes.

I passed B.Tech. ECE in 2018 with 75%. Then I did a year's internship in an embedded field but learnt nothing. Now, after four years, I want to do my Master's but have no idea which course to opt for. Everyone says to do something in programming languages but that doesn't interest me. What specialisation should I choose? Meghana

Dear Meghana,

What do you enjoy and what interests you? Your further education must align with your career goals. You can take up credible courses and online certifications in your chosen field to enhance your current skills and knowledge. You not only need to be job ready but also stand out in the job market.

Some options are VLSI Design, Digital Signal Processing, Communication Systems, Embedded Systems, Control Systems. Speak to as many people in the industry and ask them about job roles and challenges to get more information.

Do not do something that you are not interested in. Speak to a career guidance counsellor to understand your personality, values, skills, and aptitude and make an informed choice.

I completed M.Com. this year from IGNOU. Last year, I cleared the clerk exam of Agriculture University and took up the job because of my financial condition. My dream is to take the NET/JRF and become an Assistant Professor. But how can I prepare while working? Diwank

Dear Diwank,

Preparing for NET/JRF whilst working can be challenging but is possible with a proper plan and time management. First, create a proper plan that fits your schedule, allocate specific hours every day/week for studying, and stick to this. Use your free time effectively, and carry study material to work in case you put in some time during a break. Use online resources available for NET/JRF and start taking mock tests to identify weak areas. Prepare and prioritise your study topics. Seek guidance from experts or join a coaching class. Lastly study regularly and stay motivated.

Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com with the subject line Off the Edge

International conference on Physical Education and Sports Sciences

Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) will organise an international conference on Physical Education and Sport Science (ICPESS 2023) from December 14 to 16.

The event is being organised under the aegis of the National Association of Physical Education and Sports Sciences (NAPESS) and aims to bring together experts and researchers from around the world to discuss the latest developments and advancements in the field of physical education and sports science and exchange ideas and explore new avenues of collaboration.

The conference will feature a range of events including keynote speeches, panel discussions and paper presentations. For more information about the ICPESS 2023 Conference, Visit https://rb.gy/4bjgw for details

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